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THURSDAY, JANUARY 7TH 2016

**ROW OVER HOSPITAL BED NUMBERS**  
Page 20



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**NEW YEAR HEALTH, BEAUTY & FITNESS**  
Pages 18-20

## 'Sign petition for Conner'

THE parents of Conner Marshall of Barry, who was murdered by a Caerphilly man, David Braddon, in an unprovoked attack at Trecco Bay Caravan Park, Porthcawl, have asked members of the public to sign an on-line petition asking that a Probation Service report into Braddon's supervision should be published in full.

Conner's family say that a Serious Further Offence Report has identified failings in the way that Braddon was supervised.

His parents, Nadine and Richard, said: "To date, we have been disallowed and unable to have access to this full report."

"Despite numerous attempts and requests to managers, directors, MPs and Government Ministers we remain without answers and explanations as to many aspects of the case management."

"Sadly, Conner no longer has a voice, so we as his parents are committed to seeking honest, truthful answers and explanations from those who deny us this very basic need."

Speaking on television news, Nadine Marshall said that David Braddon was "a bomb waiting to go off".

The petition can be found by typing 'Conner Marshall petition' into a search engine.

## 'TAFFY ANGLERS' VISIT PORTHCAWL TO HAUL IN CASH FOR THE RNLI



The anglers meet volunteers at Porthcawl RNLI. (Photo by Gareth Davies).

**A GROUP of anglers based in Beddau have pulled together to raise funds for Porthcawl RNLI**

Anglers frequently use the breakwater, which is close to the RNLI station, as a vantage point. Indeed, just before Christmas the lifeboat was launched to rescue an angler who had been washed into the sea by a

large wave.

With this in mind, the 'Taffy Anglers' – a club which is 22-strong and can boast two juniors in the fold, recently raised more than £700.

The club is headed by Mark Jones and Clive Dowsett, both from Beddau.

Mark said: "The club is about having fun, nothing is taken too seriously when we are out, other than having a great time, learning off

one another and catching specimen fish.

"After we got ourselves established, we thought we could make a difference to the sea angling community by raising funds for the RNLI."

"In Porthcawl, they have two inshore vessels and a super spec tractor for launching and retrieving the crews safely, so a constant cash flow is necessary."

Clive Dowsett said:

"The club arranged a day out last year, where we managed to collect a good sum of money and passed it on to the guys and gals at Porthcawl's RNLI."

"We have been made to feel very welcome by chairman John Abraham and his lifeboat operations manager, Phil Missen, who steer the 50-strong group of volunteers and ensure professional standards and continual training for the crews – 365 days a year."

"We were greeted by warm handshakes and given a guide around the lifeboat station, with epic huge sea photos peppering the walls of the training room, which is a stark reminder of the perils and dangers these brave people face daily when 'we' the public make mistakes."

The actual money-raising process was carried out by dressing as Santa and fishing for several hours on the promenade at Porthcawl, where a mixture of dogfish, whiting and pout were caught.

Several of the anglers had sponsor forms so friends and family helped to increase the days count up to £761.24!

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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# YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS...

## Laleston Gardening Club MEMBERS of Laleston Gardening Club meet at Cliff Cottage, High Street, adjacent to the parish church.

The club has a series of monthly meetings throughout the autumn and winter months, on Monday, January 11 at 7.30pm, there will be a talk by Ivor Mace on the propagation of roses.

The club also has a thriving ladies section, which meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. It welcomes new members.

## Rehearsing hard

**COR Meibion Maesteg** ar Cylch (Maesteg and District Male Choir) is practising hard at the Maesteg Celtic Rugby Club in preparation for its annual concert in Maesteg town hall.

Rhian Jenkins, Huw Morgan and Ryan Wood are putting the choir through their paces with favourite Welsh hymns and there will also be additional surprises.

The concert will be at the Maesteg town hall, on Saturday, January 16; tickets are £8, available from the town hall or any member of the choir.

Sharing the stage with the choir will be tenor Richard Allen and soprano Charlotte Ellett.

Richard is well known on the eisteddfod stage and has also shared the concert platform with artists such as Rebecca Evans, Della Jones, and Katherine Jenkins.

He has toured widely, performing at major cities in Hungary, Barcelona, Belgium, France, Canada, North America and Los Angeles.

Lyric soprano Charlotte Ellett is very popular with the audience at Maesteg

town hall. She studied at the Royal Northern College of Music and is an associate artist with Welsh National Opera. She has performed extensively in concerts in the UK and abroad.

The concert compère will be BBC's Garry Owen.

The choir rehearses at the local rugby club on Thursday evenings between 7pm and 9pm, and new members are always welcome.

**On track**  
**BRIDGEND male choir has been invited to entertain Chepstow racegoers at the Coral Welsh Grand National on Saturday, January 9, along with 'The Singing Choir of Chepstow', 'Only Men Aloud' and the wonderful Rebecca Evans.**

The Bridgend choir will be singing at the parade ring, entertaining punters in the stands.

If anyone is unable to attend, they can tune into Channel 4 Television for coverage.

**School's 'first' CEFN Glas Infants School is the first infant school in Wales to achieve the 'Investors in People Gold' accreditation for supporting, developing and motivating its staff.**

Assessors found that the school's culture of learning and nurturing stretched way beyond its pupils, with staff being given every opportunity to develop their careers.

Headteacher Mrs Sue Henderson said: "Investors in People has grown to become the UK's leading accreditation to show which businesses and organisations put their staff first, so for a relatively small school in Bridgend to achieve this award is a tremendous honour."

News of the

## NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of THE GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**  
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ  
TEL: 01656 725399  
email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



accreditation comes hot on the heels of the school receiving a very positive inspection report.

Estyn assessors have rated the school's current performance as 'good', while its prospects for improvement are also 'good' and the school's partnership working has been judged as 'excellent'.

## Pupil's poster

**A POSTER designed by a Cynffig Comprehensive pupil was seen across Wales this Christmas as part of the annual anti-drink driving campaign.**

Year-7 pupil Joshua Urch's poster beat off competition from schools all over Wales to be selected as the winning entry in the road safety contest – the second time a pupil from Cynffig Comprehensive has won this annual competition.

Joshua's eye-catching entry featured an arcade game design and the slogan 'Game Over, Should Have Played Sober.'

He won the top prize of £50, a framed certificate, a 125 piece art set and a bag of other goodies.

The poster played a significant role in the month-long campaign which reminded people of the dangers of driving while under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

## Santa Appeal

**Brynteg Comprehensive School pupils have become mini-Santas once again this year, by raising money to buy presents for other children across the county borough.**

Now in its 21st year, Brynteg's 'Santa Appeal' involves all of the school's pupils getting involved in a range of festive fundraisers, which this year included sponsored Christmas carol-a-thons, raffles, and table-top sales.

The pupils raised a total of £4,000 which has been used to buy

presents for 127 local children.

Brynteg's headteacher, Mr David Jenkins, is "very proud" of the school's charitable and community support over many years.

This event in particular emphasises the caring, inclusive ethos of the school.

Local removals firm JH Apsee & Sons has supported the annual initiative since it began, and was on hand again this year to help deliver the gifts to Bridgend County Borough Council's social services department, from where they were distributed to children.

Some additional money raised by the appeal has also been donated by the school to Bridgend Women's Aid.

## Young singers

**THE Welsh Young SINGER of the Year competition organised by the Maesteg Gleemen male choir and sponsored by Dunraven Windows Ltd, is open to singers between the ages of 11-30 years at September 1, 2015, studying classical singing on a full/part time basis who meet certain criteria.**

Successful applicants will be invited to attend a live, closed audition on Saturday, January 23 at Maesteg Town Hall. The final will be held at Maesteg Town Hall on Saturday, April 2.

Competitors in the junior categories are:

**Cefn Glas Infants School**  
**Carys Davies** (Porthcawl), **Millie Stables** (Porthcawl), **Tom Herbert** (Ysgol Llangynwyd), **Elys Davies** (Porthcawl), **Carys Davies** (Haberdersham, Monmouth), **Victoria Kendrick-Doyle** (Y Pant), **Megan Billet** (Y Pant), **Lili-May Smith** (Porthcawl), **Naomi Jenkins** (Porthcawl), **Matthew Daly** (Bryntirion), **Mitchell Davies** (Porthcawl), **Layla Millar** (Porthcawl), **Llinos Haf Jones** (Ysgol Bro

Parc Slip will also be hosting a woodcarving craft weekend on January 23 and 24, with demonstrations to celebrate St Dwynwen's Day. Everyone is welcome, come along and learn the art of making love spoons. For more information, call Lorna on 01656 724100.

**Bury pupils**  
**PUPILS at Tondy Primary School had a busy time before Christmas, with the school choir being invited to sing before the dignitaries in the Marriott hotel, Swansea at an event titled 'Lunch with a Knight- the Welsh rugby legend Sir Gareth Edwards'.**

The choir also performed in a carol service at Tondy Wesley Methodist Church.

The football team, consisting of Jonny Evans, Owain Hopkins, Connor Jones, Frazer Marshall, Kieran O'Connor, Joshua Payne, Christopher Williamson and Bobby Zziwa, played in the Bridgend County Football Cup against Brynmynyn primary school, which Tondy won by 4-3.

A number of pupils competed in the Newcastle Higher Community Council Christmas cards competition and were successful: in the infants Oscar Humphreys, Hayden Painter and Sam Kinsey-Clough took first, second and third prizes respectively.

In the juniors Justin Ruck, Teigan Parsons, Lara Morris took first, second and third prizes respectively.

The pupils also wore Christmassy jumpers to raise awareness of the charity 'Save the Children' and collected money for this worthwhile charity.

**Football club**  
**BRIDGEND Football Coaching Club is organising a new course commencing tomorrow (Friday, January 8) at Bryntirion**

**Comprehensive School, for the Easter term. The course is open to boys and girls aged 4-11; all coaches are Football Association trained and are CRB police checked.**

\* Happy New Year to all readers of this column!

## Local First Responders send out an SOS for funds

**COITY and Bridgend First Responders have launched an urgent appeal to enable them to purchase lifesaving equipment, in particular new defibrillators, for their group.**

The group needs to raise £3,000 to enable its recently increased membership to respond to more 999 calls in the Coity and Bridgend area.

The group is trained to use defibrillators (AED) which are used in the cases of cardiac arrest, oxygen therapy and other lifesaving equipment.

Mike James, co-ordinator of the group said: "We are a

volunteer group who are trained to attend certain emergency calls received by the Welsh Ambulance Service and provide care until an ambulance arrives.

"Our volunteers can arrive at an emergency scene in a matter of minutes, as they are only sent to calls in the local area.

"The scheme operates as a community-based partnership between our First Responder group and the Welsh Ambulance Service. We receive no Government funding, so we are starting this appeal to gain much needed equipment."

For further information, contact crowdfunding.justgiving.com/coity-Responders.

## Borough offers Armed Forces free swims

**PAST and present members of the Armed Forces are to be offered free swimming at leisure centres across Bridgend County Borough.**

Bridgend County Borough Council and its partners Halo Leisure have agreed to offer the free swims to veterans and serving personnel during public sessions at local centres.

Anyone who wants to take advantage of the scheme must be in possession of an MoD

Defence Privilege Card, and the scheme will not apply to spouses/partners or family members.

Council Leader Mel Nott said: "Local residents who are aged over 60 can already benefit from free swimming, while

children aged under 16 can swim for free at specified times during school holidays too.

"So I am delighted that, together with Halo, we are now able to offer free swimming to current Armed Forces personnel while they are in the county borough on leave, and also to veterans."

## HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JANUARY 14)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
07 Thur	04.22	8.4	16.39	8.6
08 Fri	05.03	8.9	17.27	9.0
09 Sat	05.48	9.4	18.08	9.6
10 Sun	06.29	9.7	18.47	9.7
11 Mon	07.11	10.0	19.31	10.0
12 Tues	07.52	10.1	20.12	9.9
13 Wed	08.29	10.2	20.53	9.9
14 Thur	09.17	9.9	21.38	9.9

While THE GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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## Funds will go to Lullaby Trust Local vicars take part in London Marathon – in memory of Erin

**TWO vicars – one from St Athan, the other from Swansea – are taking part in the London Marathon to raise funds in memory of a little girl who died from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).**

Rachel Simpson and Steven Bunting, who are engaged, are not 'sporting addicts', but want to complete the 26 mile 385 yard course to support the Lullaby Trust.

Rachel explained: "My fiancé and I are training to run the London Marathon in April to support the Trust which helps bereaved families who have lost a child to 'Sudden Infant Death Syndrome'.

"We decided to help them after a friend lost her eight month old daughter Erin very suddenly.

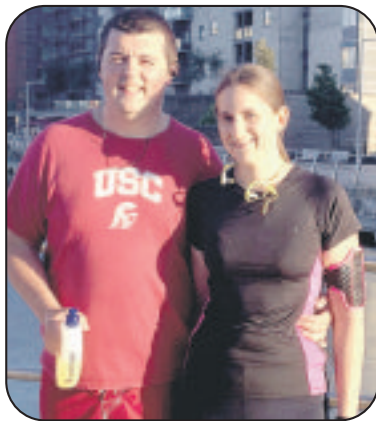
"Since that tragic death we've become aware of a lot more families who have lost children this way, many of whom are not getting the support they need.

"Neither of us has done any running before, so it is a big commitment for us – but it's also been made bigger as we have committed to raising £5,000 for the charity."

Rachel is a member of the clergy at Llantwit Major church.

She said: "As I live in St Athan and am one of

by GEM REPORTER



**Steven Bunting and Rachel Simpson are running the London Marathon, in memory of a little girl called Erin.**

the clergy in Llantwit, and my fiancé lives in Swansea and is the vicar of St Thomas Church, we've been trying to hold fundraising events in both areas so that we can reach more people."

Steven said: "The Lullaby Trust is committed to supporting parents who are affected by SIDS and also funding research into the prevention of this terrible syndrome.

"We are running this in memory of Erin and for all those people affected by the loss of a child.

"Please give generously – we really

appreciate it! "Neither of us can particularly run – unless we are being chased by a bear! – therefore this is a fairly big deal for the both of us."

The London Marathon takes place on April 24. So far the couple have raised £2,629, including £395 at a curry and quiz night.

If you would like to make a donation, go to the following link: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserProfilePage.action?userId=RachelSimpson13>.

## LOCAL REFUSE COLLECTION: Changes could turn borough into a 'rubbish dump' – CLAIM

**STREETS across Bridgend county borough could resemble rubbish dumps if changes to the refuse collection service are introduced by the council, says a Welsh Conservative regional AM, Suzy Davies.**

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) is consulting on options to change the service: one option would see a monthly collection but with unlimited numbers of black bags per household. Under other options, each household would be restricted to just one black bag per week. One proposal is to keep the current fortnightly collection with just two bags permitted or another option is for a three-weekly collection which would permit three bags per household.

Mrs Davies said: "The council seems to favour the once a month option with unlimited bags. But that would pose major problems for many households.

"Bridgend could soon resemble an enormous rubbish dump with bags left everywhere – on pavements, kerbside, open spaces and waste ground. People would become desperate to put these bags somewhere.

"They would be cleared up once a month, but then the whole business would begin again."

Coun Hywel

Williams, BCBC's cabinet member for communities, said: "We must meet the Welsh Government's new targets for increasing how much we recycle, and cut back on the amount of waste that is sent to landfill.

"Failure to achieve the new recycling targets would lead to financial penalties, so we have to change the current system and recycle more.

"Changing the frequency of black bag collections would help encourage people to recycle more, and we are therefore carrying out public consultation on options for the future. It is not an option to stay as we are.

"It is true that any future system must also be cost effective and affordable, based on future budget predictions for the council.

"However, we have not expressed a preference for any of the options available in the consultation – we are keen to hear residents' views before any decision is made.

"In fact, we urge as many people as possible to get involved in the consultation as this is an important issue that will affect all residents so we invite everyone to have their say.

"The consultation is open until February 8 and can be completed online at [www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation). Paper copies are also available at local libraries."

## December weather has definitely been different this year!



## HALF CENTURY CELEBRATIONS

**PORHCRAWL Art Society is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year – and the celebrations have begun with a visit to the Senedd, and a meeting with First Minister Carwyn Jones, AM for Bridgend.**

Throughout the year, there will be various events: including a day's sketching and painting at Dyffryn Gardens on May

2; why not come along and watch the artists at work?

There will be four exhibitions at the gallery at the old police station in Johns Street, with many more events in the planning stage. The winter exhibition is now on display.

If you are interested in joining, come along on Wednesday between 1.30pm-3.30pm and have a chat. We also meet on Wednesday evenings from 7pm-9pm, April-December.

ROBERT TAYLOR

**ABOVE:**  
*The unseasonably warm (and wet) December has had many unusual effects – not least at the Sandville Self-Help Centre in Ton Kenfig, where Gwyneth Poacher is pictured, looking at the daffodils that have already raised their heads.*

Photograph by  
Keith E Morgan.

## Angling Santas reel in funds for RNLI



**The anglers' 'Santa day' in Porthcawl.**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mr Missen continued: "Having been privileged to talk freely with some of the guys at the community room above the RNLI shop, which is incidentally open 7 days a week; it was obvious the passion the men and ladies have for their community and the efforts people go to, to raise money.

"RNLI press officer Mr Ian Stroud spoke with passion about the good work the local community do and

highlighted the need for continual support, just to be able to offer in house and external training for the crews.

"He also mentioned that the local Christmas Day swim, that has run over 51 years, decided that the 2016 funds raised will be given directly to the station which proves that community spirit is high.

Report and photographs by  
Gareth Davies for Total Sea Fishing Magazine

## New year plea for foster parents in the borough

**BCBC has made a further appeal for local families to come forward as foster parents.**

According to the Fostering Network, 8,370 more foster carers are currently needed in the UK. In Bridgend since 2010, the number of children in care has increased by 21 per cent and there are currently 372 children and young people who are looked after in the county borough. In Wales, 600

foster families are needed.

The Bridgend Foster Care Team organises regular meet and greet sessions that provide information on fostering. The next session will take place on Wednesday, January 20 at 7pm in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.

Further information is available at [www.bridgendfostercare.wales](http://www.bridgendfostercare.wales) or contact the fostering team 01656 642674.

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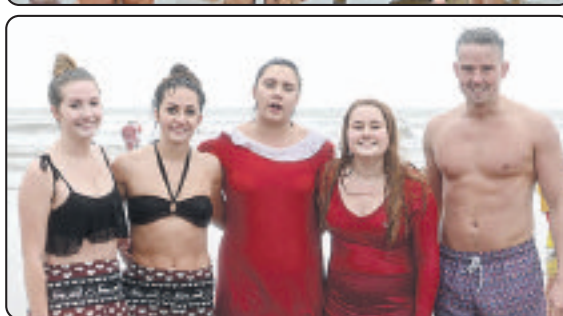
# THE CHRISTMAS DAY SWIM IS GOOD FUN – AND ALL IN A GOOD CAUSE!

**PHOTOGRAPHS by ANDY WICKS**

Telephone 07855 374478

THE Christmas Day swim in Porthcawl attracted almost 1,000 swimmers who braved the steady drizzle and strong winds to head out into the Bristol Channel.

The main charity to benefit was the RNLI although many other charities are likely to benefit when the final total is calculated.





## SWEET SUCCESS!

Morgan (aged 12) swims three miles on way to raising £1,000 for charity



ABOVE: Morgan Sweet after completing his swim.

A LOCAL 12-year-old schoolboy is on course to raise £1,000 for cancer research, after giving up part of his Christmas holidays to do a

by PHILIP IRWIN

sponsored swim.

Morgan Sweet, who lives in Pencoed, tackled the three-mile swim on December 27 at the HALO swimming pool in his home town.

He swam 200 lengths in total, just over three miles, and also gained his 5,000m badge.

Morgan only turned 12 years of age two weeks before the swim, and it continues his own tradition – that of raising funds for cancer research every December.

Morgan chose the charity himself as he has lost close family members to the disease.

The previous year, Morgan swam two miles and raised £150 for cancer research.

The year before that, he swam his first mile for fun!

This year, Morgan began his swim at 9am and completed it by 11.30am.

Morgan has been supported by family, friends and staff at Cardiff Bay Police Station and was made 'hero of the day' by Chief Superintendent Belinda Davies on December 17, when he visited the station and met staff, including the Chief Super.

Morgan's parents, Craig and Adele Sweet, told The GEM: "We are on target to raise £1,000 this year when we collect pledges that are still outstanding."

"When Morgan heard how generous people were being, he said: 'Imagine how much money I could raise if I swam four miles!'"

"This is our son all over, always thinking of how he can help others and not asking for anything in return."

"Also, a big thank you has to go to HALO Pencoed whose staff assisted and encouraged Morgan with his swim and support him every year when he undertakes the challenge."

"As parents, we are extremely proud of Morgan – as we are of all our children. We are used to hearing what the youth of today don't do, so this is a refreshing change."

"Who knows what swimming challenge he will think of for December 2016!"

## Young Kyle's half marathon milestone!



Rachel with Kyle and James (in the pram).

"My son, Kyle Paulett, has just completed his 11th junior park run, which means he has achieved the milestone of a half marathon."

"I think it's such a great way to exercise with your children and I want to share our experience of the warm welcome we received and how it encourages children to exercise."

"The children get certificates when the half marathon distance is reached, and bands to wear."

"It has been a fantastic way to start Sunday mornings, which for us is at Newbridge fields in Bridgend at 9.30am – but Cardiff also has a junior park run."

"I'd like to let other families know it's free, and a great way to start the day."

Rachel Paulett



Kyle Paulett with his certificate. He achieved a half marathon by completing 11 park runs before his fifth birthday.

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## EXTRA FESTIVE CHEER FOR LOCAL CHILDREN IN CARE



Santa is pictured with Ceri Hill, HM Prison & Young Offenders' Institution; Laura Kinsey, Coun Hailey Townsend, Bridge FM's Lee Dukes; and Marlies Postmus, HM Prison & Young Offenders' Institution.

MANY youngsters received an extra Christmas present in the county borough – thanks to the kind-heartedness of residents and local businesses.

The gifts were donated as part of Bridge FM's annual Christmas Toy Appeal for children living in care.

As part of the appeal, which is supported by the Co-Operative and HM Prison & Young Offenders' Institution, approximately 60 Christmas presents were donated to BCBC's looked-after children.

The gifts were handed to the council's cabinet member for children's social services and equalities, Coun Hailey Townsend and Laura Kinsey, head of safeguarding

and assessment.

"Currently, there are 372 children and young people in our care and while the number of children becoming looked after is currently decreasing, there is still a shortage of foster carers," Coun Townsend said.

"We need to continue in our efforts to attract more people to become foster carers so I urge anyone who is interested in fostering to contact the team. They will be able to provide all the information you need to make a decision on whether to become a foster carer."

For more information telephone 01656 642674, or visit [www.bridgendfostercare.wales](http://www.bridgendfostercare.wales)

## Help break down bowel cancer stigma

WE would like to thank all the local men who took part in Beating Bowel Cancer's Decembeard fundraising campaign by going grizzly last month.

Decembeard, which men to ditch their razors and grow a beard throughout the month of December, is a fun way for individuals or teams to raise funds and help to increase awareness of the disease.

It's simple to take part in and thousands signed up for it again last month.

We'd like to thank every one of them for their support.

The many thousands of pounds they have raised in sponsorship will help the charity to support bowel cancer patients and their families and to raise awareness of the disease, its symptoms and the need for early diagnosis.

As well as raising funds for the charity, the campaign can help to break down the stigma of talking about bowel cancer, which is the UK's second biggest cancer killer.

Over 100 people are diagnosed with bowel cancer every day, yet over 90 per cent of cases can be treated successfully, if caught early. So it's vital that people become more aware of the symptoms so they can act quickly.

If anyone has any queries or concerns about bowel cancer, there's lots of information and advice on our website, or they can call our Nurse Helpline on 020 8973

0011.

Mark Flannagan, CEO Beating Bowel Cancer, [www.beatingbowelcancer.org](http://www.beatingbowelcancer.org).

## PUBLIC NOTICE BRITISH COAL COKING PLANTS DEADLINE - 24 APRIL 2016

The High Court has appointed Hugh James and Irwin Mitchell as lead solicitors in a group action for conditions associated with employment at coke works operated by British Coal. Specifically:

- respiratory disease
- temporary exacerbation of asthma
- lung cancer
- squamous cell skin cancer

A closing date for the group register has been set by the Court as 24 April 2016.

If you think you or a deceased family member may have been affected and worked in a coke fuel plant as a coke oven worker and wish to consider joining the group, please contact Hugh James or Irwin Mitchell by 24 February 2016 who will send you further information and assess whether you may be eligible to join the group and claim compensation.

If you instruct an alternative solicitor other than Hugh James or Irwin Mitchell, it is their responsibility to submit notice of any individual wishing to join the litigation to Hugh James and Irwin Mitchell.

Call Hugh James or Irwin Mitchell:

**0808 271 4407**

Or visit:

[www.hughjames.com/cocomp](http://www.hughjames.com/cocomp) or  
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# PORTHCAWL DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR... Year that began with a sea tragedy brought more heartbreak news at home and abroad



John McLaughlin.



John Ormond Rowe.

**January 1916:** SEVERE storms were heralded in 1916 – several distress signals had been seen off the coast of Porthcawl during the first week, but, thankfully, no tragedies occurred.

The same cannot be said for the Port Eynon lifeboat, *The Janet*, which launched at 11.45am on January 1 in response to the distress call from the *Dunvegan*, floundering off Oxwich Bay. Arriving at Pwll Du point, *The Janet* realised that coastguard rocket apparatus, launched from land, had saved the crew of the vessel.

Suddenly, the sea, which was described as a 'seething cauldron,' rose up and overturned the lifeboat. Of the 10 men on board, only eight managed to get back into the righted vessel. Tragically, the boat was again hit by a huge wave, throwing the coxswain Billy Gibbs overboard. All three men perished.

What has this tragedy to do with Porthcawl? Sadly, it was off the coast of Porthcawl that two of the bodies were washed up: William Eynon's body came ashore at Newton on January 16 and coxswain Billy Gibbs' body was spotted off Sker Point on February 5; but due to rough seas, was never recovered. The body of George Harry, the third victim had previously been retrieved off the coast of Jersey Marine, on January 5.

While the people of Port Eynon were grieving for three of their sons, before the month was out Porthcawl residents would be doing the same.

Private Albert Farrow died in hospital in Cardiff on January 9. Albert Edward Farrow was one of nine children born in Newport in 1885 to William and Louisa Farrow. Albert and his two older brothers became house painters.

In the 1911 Census, Albert and Walter had a house painting business in Swansea while his eldest brother, William Joseph Farrow had opened a similar business on Station Hill, Porthcawl. In 1912 Albert, his wife of three years Elizabeth, and two stepsons Edward and John, moved to Porthcawl to join William in business. They lived at 9, Westbourne Place, Porthcawl.

In February 1915, Albert enlisted into the 19th (Service) Battalion Welsh Regiment (Glamorgan Pioneers) but possibly due to feeling unwell when the regiment was posted to France in December 1915, Albert was sent home and transferred to the newly-formed 21st (Reserve) Battalion.

A fortnight prior to his death, he was taken seriously ill and died in hospital in Cardiff. Private Farrow's funeral took place on January 13. Mourners lined the route from the railway station to St John's churchyard, Newton, where he was buried with full military honours.

Corporal Harry Maxwell was killed in France, also on January 9. According to the 1911 Census, Harry was born in 1879 in the USA of British parentage. He married Elizabeth Ann Matthews on December 31, 1904, in Wimbledon.

Elizabeth and her family were from Porthcawl and prior to them moving to Southampton (where she probably met Harry arriving from America) her sister Mary had married Thomas George Jones, later to be Sir TG Jones of Beach House, Mackworth Road, Porthcawl. TG Jones was a member of the Porthcawl Council, an estate agent, landowner and owner of the Porthcawl News.

On June 15, 1915 Harry had enlisted into the Royal Engineers 33rd Company, Motor Cyclist Corps, Service No 100517, in Tottenham, London and arrived in France on November 11, 1915.

Harry's death on January 9, 1916 led to a court inquiry, held on January 26, in which witnesses reported that Corporal Maxwell had arrived at the signal office – Rue Victor Hugo – with dispatches for the 19th Brigade at 11.15pm on January 8 1916 and had left at 11.40pm.

At 4am, an ambulance carrying the body of Cpl Maxwell arrived back at the signal office. It was claimed that his body had been found on the Beuvry-Cambin road.

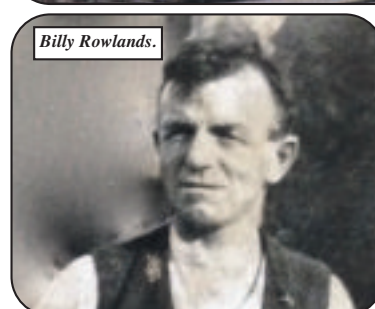
Reports led the inquiry to assume that his motorcycle had broken down and that, despite the lack of an eye-witness, he had been knocked down



Esplanade Avenue.



Mackworth Road, 1916.



Billy Rowlands.



Coxswain Billy Gibbs.

by one of three lorries while trying to attract attention.

It was emphasized that this section of the road surface was 'very indifferent as a result of shelling' and that 'no lights are allowed on this section of the road.'

Medical reports state that he died from broken ribs puncturing his lungs. At the time of his death his wife, Elizabeth and his four children had moved to live with their grandparents at Ty Gwyn, Mackworth Road, Porthcawl. It was here that Elizabeth gave birth to Victor on April 22, 1916, four months after Harry's death. Elizabeth remained in Porthcawl for the rest of her life and died in December 1954.

Private John McLaughlin, the Black Watch Regiment, was killed in Basra on January 21. Private McLaughlin had moved to Porthcawl in 1912 from London with his brother to work as a labourer in the building of the Porthcawl Gasworks. Within two years he had married and moved into 9, George Street. His brother Lionel had been killed earlier in the war, at the Battle of Loos, Belgium, on September 25, 1915.

On the home front, the 23rd Pioneer Battalion formed and stationed in Porthcawl and boasting quite a few local men in its ranks, often entertained the residents. The Battalion band proved to be very accomplished and held many concerts at the Pavilion, at the top of Gordon Road, in aid of various appeals.

For many though, it would have been that New Year's Eve that thrilled; when the band serenaded residents as it marched around the streets that night.

Later in the month, the battalion were to hold a boxing tournament to raise regimental funds: the

Porthcawl audience were treated to keenly-fought contests and exhibition fighting. Jimmy Wilde, 'The Tylorstown Terror' and British Flyweight champion, boxed exhibition rounds against a few locals.

Corporal John Ormond Rowe, Railway Terrace (Hillsboro Place today) and home on leave from the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, was praised for his display against a much more experienced fighter.

The evening was concluded with the bout between Porthcawl's own, Billy Rowlands, 6, Vintern Terrace and Dick Sorris, a young black man from Cardiff. Although Billy had been a very able boxer before the war, ranked ninth in Britain, his younger opponent proved too strong.

Billy had, only two weeks before, lost in the eighth round to Jimmy Wilde during a bruising contest in Swansea in aid of the Swansea Prisoners of War fund.

Billy had enlisted in November 1915 into the 23rd Battalion and before his battalion had left for Salonika in August 1916, he certainly used his boxing ability to support the war effort in the only way he knew how.

Private Billy Rowlands survived the war, despite severe bouts of malaria and returned home in 1919.

Finally, Mr George Blundell, in response to a War Office request, was very keen that Porthcawl too would form its own Motor Volunteer Corps to be attached to the Bridgend Company.

'The platoon will be made up of 20 motorists with one companion, making 40 in all.' The aim was to assist the military in cases of emergency and convey wounded soldiers.

In true tradition, it was announced that 'Uniform and brassard are allowed to be worn.' (Porthcawl News January 13, 1916.)

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# RECORD TURN-OUT FOR PORTHCAWL LIONS' BOXING DAY FUN RUN EVENT



The start of the Boxing Day run with the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun David Newton-Williams, as the official starter.



Joseph Readon, first junior male past the post.



Geraint Richards, winner of best fancy dress



ABOVE: Morgan Davies (the winner) with Rhys Lewis and Coun David Newton-Williams.



The Lions' command and control centre where they keep their finger on the button throughout the event.



The water bottle girls and St John Ambulance; always on call.

## Report and photographs by KEITH E MORGAN

SOMEONE was looking after Porthcawl for this year's Lions' Boxing Day fun run and walk, and the event enjoyed a rain free day.

This year there was a record turn out of some 270 registered runners and walkers, with others tagging along just for the fun of it.

Starting at the Hi Tide, Porthcawl, where all the facilities had been laid out courtesy of Francesca and Geoff Dower, the Lions were hard pushed to get all the runners and walkers registered.

There were so many of them that the queue stretched from the registration room through to the bar.

Accompanied by Rhys Lewis, president of the Porthcawl Lions Club, the run was started by the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun David Newton-Williams, and on the sound of the horn, the 270 runners (many dressed in fancy dress) were off and away in true London Marathon style.

The first to cross the finishing line was Morgan Davies, who completed the run in 23.25 minutes. He was followed by Elinor Kirk with a time of 25.10 minutes. Richard Dando was third with a timing of 25.28 minutes while Joseph Readon from Merthyr Tydfil, was the first junior runner to finish with an excellent time of 27.20 minutes.

All the results were flashed up in real time on the command and control large screen display so that all could follow the events as they unfolded.

The awards were presented by Coun David Newton-Williams, ably assisted by Rhys Lewis, Lion Gloria Ward and Paul Fielding.

The winners of the various categories were: Morgan Davies, first senior male; Elinor Kirk, first senior female; Stephen Bartlett, first veteran male; Charlotte Johns, first veteran female; Joseph Readon, first junior male; Felicity Williamson-Sarll, first junior female and club winners were the Cornelly Striders, and Geraint Richards was best fancy dressed runner.



Sandville walkers Gary and Jack with Sister Gwyneth Poacher.



The run marshals preparing to leave the Hi Tide to take up their positions on the course.



The first three home with Mayor and Paul Fielding.



ABOVE: Father Christmas and Elf just dropped down the chimney for the Boxing Day run.



A selection of Members of the Porthcawl Lions Club who organised the Porthcawl Boxing Day fun run.



# PANTO-GOERS RAISE £1,105 FOR CHARITY



AS was reported in last week's GEM, families who enjoyed the *Beauty and the Beast* panto at the Grand Pavilion Theatre, Porthcawl on December 13, raised an impressive £1,106 for local charities.

Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Coun Richard Young and Mayor of Porthcawl town, Coun David Newton Williams, attended the performance, along with representatives from the Mayors' charities.

The money was raised through a combination of bucket collections, raffle and a donation made from every ticket sold for the performance.

*The cheque being presented before the performance (below) and also on stage at the pantomime performance (above).*



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for the latest stories  
and breaking news...  
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# Tomos (18) wins a special FUW memorial award



Pictured (left to right) are: FUW Glamorganshire county executive officer Rachel Saunders, FUW president Glyn Roberts, Tomos Churchill, and the FUW Glamorganshire county chairman, Richard Walker.

**THIS year's winner of the Farmers' Union of Wales Glamorganshire county branch's Walter Rowlands memorial award, is 18-year-old Tomos Churchill of Graig Ddu Farm, Dinas.**

He is currently studying Level 2 agricultural studies at Pencoed College, near Bridgend.

Tomos, who has learning disabilities and cerebral palsy with limited use of his right arm, has already successfully completed

Level 1 agricultural studies and intends to complete the entire three-year course on a full time basis.

In his spare time he works on the 180-acre family farm, consisting of 30 Texel sheep and over 400 Welsh mountain sheep.

"I am very pleased to win the award and it has given me the confidence to continue with my studies," he said.

The award contributes £200 towards his studies and through college, he is hoping to secure a placement for two days a

week on a local dairy farm, in order to learn more about keeping and managing cattle, and he is interested in joining his local Young Farmers Club.

In the future, he is looking to take over the family farm and expand the livestock to include a suckler cattle herd to run alongside the established flock.

FUW Glamorganshire county chairman Richard Walker, who presented the award to Tomos, said: "It is very encouraging to see such enthusiasm from the younger generation towards the agricultural industry and the FUW are keen to continue supporting promising young farmers through this award."

"Tomos is more than deserving of this award and both he and his family should be very proud of his achievements."

"We wish him all the best with his future studies and management of the farm."

The award, in memory of FUW county secretary Walter G Rowlands, who died in service in 1986, is made to an agricultural student in Glamorganshire after careful consideration by the union's county executive committee.

The fund was set up and funded by the Walter Rowlands family to continue his memory.

## Veterans' reunion visit to Cairo

**OVER the years I have arranged many groups back to the Egyptian Canal Zone and several of your readers have joined us on these visits.**

I have now stopped organising groups to the Canal Zone, but I have received many letters enquiring if it is possible to visit the war cemeteries in the Cairo area, especially Heliopolis and El-Alamein, as well as Moascar, Fayid and Tel El-Kebir.

There are at least five war cemeteries in the

Cairo vicinity, as well as the ones mentioned above five, so I have decided to arrange a group visit to Cairo.

Your readers are invited to join our group, and if they contact me I will send full details of itinerary and costs.

The reunion group visit is from June 1-10. **Alf Avison, Middle East Land Forces Association, PO Box 99, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 9NS. Email: alfavison@talktalk.net Telephone 07814 832441.**



## SINGING SANTAS (AND FRIENDS) BOOST ROTARY'S FUNDRAISING

**THE Rotary Club of Bridgend wishes the people of Bridgend a very happy new year, and thanks all who have given very**

**generously to the club's Christmas charity collections.**

Thanks also to Tesco and Sainsbury's for their support in allowing Rotarians and their sleigh to collect

outside their stores.

Since it was chartered in 1925, the Rotary Club of Bridgend has used the celebration of Christmas to raise funds to assist those who are less

fortunate, or in need in the Bridgend area, and all the money the club collects at Christmas time is used to support local causes and charities.

The Rotary Club's

Singing Santas and friends in the Bridgend Male Choir were another means of raising funds for charity at Christmas. They performed their own blend of Christmas songs and carols in numerous establishments across the Borough.

The Santas' gift of their time and the support they receive from the people of Bridgend actively reflects the true meaning of the festive season.

Rotary is a fellowship organisation dedicated to helping those less fortunate than themselves. To find more about Rotary contact [www.rotarybridgend.org.uk](http://www.rotarybridgend.org.uk) or the secretary of the club of Bridgend on 01656 652181.

**ALAN REEKS, PRESIDENT**

## Sign up for the 'Race for Life'

**BRIDGEND women are being urged to get the New Year off to a great start by signing up now to Cancer Research UK's Race for Life 2016.**

The charity is calling on women of all shapes and sizes to show cancer who's boss by entering the Race for Life 5k event at Newbridge Fields in Bridgend.

Although many see January as the perfect opportunity to start a new chapter in terms of health and fitness, motivation can slip as the cold weather drags on.

That's where Race for Life comes in. As the event takes place on Sunday, June 5, women who enter now will be creating their own compelling goal to aim for later in the year, when the warmer weather makes staying on the sofa less tempting.

Lisa Sweeting, Cancer Research UK's Bridgend event manager, said: "Signing up to take part in Race for Life is a great way for women to commit

to get a little more active.

"Race for Life events are non-competitive. Taking part is not about being fit or fast and participants can choose to walk, jog, or run around the course. The atmosphere is incredibly supportive. Pledging to take part, alongside thousands of like minded women, is a great motivation to get fitter. Planning to raise money for life-saving research could prove more of an incentive to get up and get moving than the usual New Year's resolution to shift the post-Christmas pounds."

One in two people in the UK will be diagnosed with cancer at some stage in their lives, but the good news is more people are surviving the disease now than ever before. Survival rates have doubled since the early 1970s.

Women who sign up for 5k event in January can benefit from a specially reduced fee of £10.

**To enter Race for Life today, visit [raceforlife.org](http://raceforlife.org) or call 0300 123 0770.**

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# Penarth and District Ramblers take on wintry walks



Penarth Ramblers on a winter walk in Penarth.

AS part of the annual Festival of Winter Walks just after Christmas and despite the constant rainfall that has been falling, a group of seven keen walkers, plus dogs Bronte and Bracken, turned out in yet more rain to join Sue and Jodie the Staffie at Penarth Cliff top car park.

This proved to be a perfect walk to stay out

of the mud, as they set off through an urban area and tramped along the old railway line, descending gradually along pavements and across Lavernock Road to Cosmeston Country Park.

As the rain stopped, they continued around both the eastern and western lakes to the medieval village and, re-crossing Lavernock Road, joined Fort Road and paddled through surface water escaping from the adjacent waterlogged fields.

They passed the delightful church dedicated to St Lawrence at Lavernock Point where long distance views out over the Bristol Channel towards Flat and Steep Holm and the Somerset coastline could only be glimpsed through a mist.

After turning eastwards and following the Wales Coast Path along the cliff-top, which resembled a streambed and where water was gushing over the cliff onto the beach below, the rain began to fall heavily as they made their way back to their start; but

everyone agreed they had enjoyed a spell in the fresh air after the excesses of the festive season.

The following day was dull and overcast but dry and eight female walkers, along with dogs Jodie, Bracken and Bronte, joined Jan and John at Cold Knap car terrace from where they set off along Lakeside and under the railway bridge to cross the very boggy grass at Romilly Park.

A climb followed past the Gorsedd Stones, to the ruins of Barry Castle on Park Road, and then down Fishpond Hill, where they deviated down a flight of slippery leaf-covered steps into the cwm before crossing the bridge over the fast flowing Barry Brook.

The track covered in thick oozing mud caused a few balance problems before they tramped uphill and made their way through a residential area and then downhill into the Millwood.

The rough muddy rain-soaked track beside the racing Nant Talwg stream led on to the remains of the old sawmill, built in 1835 as

part of the Porthkerry estate owned by the Romilly family. Making their way across the main meadow of Porthkerry Country Park, before re-crossing the Barry Brook, they headed uphill on Lover's Lane.

Deviating through the Garden Suburb, a kind offer of mince pies and coffee at their leader's nearby home, was politely declined by most of the group who were covered in mud from their boots upwards and their return journey was made along Porth-y-Castell and downhill through Birch Grove Wood, then along the base of the hill below Marine Drive to the steps

leading back to the car park.

On January 9, meet at 9am at the Barry Waterfront for an eight-mile moderate walk taking in Llansannor; contact Rachel on 01446 410545.

On January 10, meet at 9.30am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a six-mile easy walk around Cardiff Bay; contact Ann on 029 2040 7319.

To follow the group log onto [www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com](http://www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com). Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

## IN BRIEF

### Vale Am's surgery

VALE of Glamorgan AM Jane Hutt will hold a surgery on January 9, from 10am – 11am at Barry CAB office 119 Broad Street. No appointment is necessary.

**Equity advice**  
Do you own your own home? Are you interested in advice and information on equity release?

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale will hold an advice session at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on January 12 from 10am – 12pm.

No appointment needed. Call 01446 732385 for details.

## Ed Evans concert raises £870

THE Ed Evans Foundation held a very successful concert at Wick Village Hall on Friday, December 4 with The Ogmore Valley Male Voice Choir.

The choir performed to a packed hall and over £870 was raised for charity. The foundation would like to thank everyone that contributed to make the evening a success.

Sue Evans  
Ed Evans Foundation

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# CHARITY SANTA MOTORBIKE RIDE IN MEMORY OF LOCAL TEACHER



**MORE than £1,000 was raised in memory of a Cowbridge teacher when 35 motorbike Santas toured the Vale just before Christmas.**

GEM readers will remember the outpouring

of grief that followed the sudden death last October of Tanya Floyd – who lived near Cowbridge and who taught in Caldicot.

Her family and friends have been raising money in her memory for two charities that she supported, Cancer Research Wales and Y

Bont, a children's charity in Bridgend. The total funds raised have almost reached £10,000.

The motor bike Santas (with some elves and a snowman) rode to as many villages as possible through the Vale, Bridgend and RCT.

The event was organised by Vale Moto Training of Llandow, and spokesman Stephen Davey said: "We hope to make this an annual event."

"We managed to raise £1,144.60 for Y Bont children's charity and it was held in memory of Tanya Floyd."

"There was a good crowd to greet us as we finished at the Duke of Wellington in Cowbridge, who also supported the event."



## PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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Above picture by Stephen Davey.

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# PUPILS ENJOY FESTIVE ADVENT EVENTS AT ST NICHOLAS C/W PRIMARY SCHOOL

**THE last two weeks at St Nicholas C/W Primary were packed with festive fun and cheer, a reward for all the hard work the children put into the term.**

It started with classes 1, 2 and 3 putting on the very successful concert, Jerusalem News, telling the Nativity Story through the genre of a live news report.

The play contained singing angels, dancing sheep, a solo from King Herod and video footage of children dancing in the streets, celebrating the birth of baby Jesus.

On Tuesday, the whole school decamped to Bridgend College to watch a former member of staff perform in the amazing pantomime *Alice in Pantoland*.

Everyone had a fantastic time, especially when Alice's mother, Dame Gladys Christmas, had all the children up dancing and singing in the aisles.

Jacob Miller, year-6 councillor said: "My favourite character was the Queen of Hearts, because she was funny and nasty at the same time."

Wednesday saw the children embark on a journey that Richard Trevithick himself might have taken over 210 years ago; travelling from Pant Station in Merthyr to Pontsticill Station to meet Santa Claus on the Brecon Mountain Railway.

They were extremely excited, even the year-6 children and displayed excellent behaviour and impeccable manners throughout.

Grace Shelbourne from year-6 stated: "Thank you all of the staff and teachers for planning this out it was an amazing trip."

"I loved going on the steam train and meeting Santa. It was all absolutely fabulous and I couldn't ask for any better way to see Santa."

Finally, as the term drew to a close, the whole school gathered together to make their own Christingles. These were then carried into the church by the school choir, to start our traditional carol service led by the school council.

Mr Malcolm Thomas, our school caretaker, who wrote a special poem for the occasion added: "It was lovely to hear traditional carols sung so well by the children at this special time of year."

**Report by Jason Downey and the School Council**



*At Brecon, Mrs Taylor Gibbs was more excited than the children!*



**ABOVE: Erin showing off her Christingle.**



*Joseph is woken by the angels.*



**ABOVE: The Jerusalem News reporters.**

**RIGHT: More Christingle creations.**

**LEFT: Herod's wife singing 'What is a puppet king to do'.**

**BELOW: The infants on Brecon Mountain Railway.**



**ABOVE: The sheep take a rest.**





## Local people recognised in New Year's Honours list

A NUMBER of local people were included in the year's New Year's Honours list:

Mr Gareth James Williams of Treos received the OBE for public and voluntary services in Wales.

Mr David Anthony Street of St Athan received the MBE. Mr Street is the founder of One Voice Wales, and his award was for services to community-based democracy in Wales.

Mr Emlyn Tysil Williams, a former Mayor of the Vale, received the MBE for public and political service.

Mrs Helena Charles received a British Empire Medal (BEM) for voluntary service to the community in Blaengarw.

Mr Basil Edward Priest received the BEM for voluntary service to Holme Towers Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth.

Gareth Williams received the OBE. Since retiring to The Vale in 2002 with his wife, Ruth, he has held three roles of chairman – the Institute of Directors Wales, the Trustees of Scouts Wales and of Netalogue plc – one of Wales public companies. In addition, he has served as a Trustee of the National Museums of Wales.

Mr Williams recently completed three major reports which the Welsh Government fully accepted on the future regulation and strategy for agriculture.

He is currently a UK Trustee and chairman of the Wales Board for Marie Curie, a Fellow of the Institute of Directors and an Honorary Fellow of Cardiff Metropolitan University.

He said he was both surprised and privileged to receive his honour and that it reflected the contribution and dedication of so many

with whom he has worked. In particular he paid tribute to Ruth who has been so supportive and encouraging during these recent years.

Emlyn Williams, who received an MBE, is a former long-serving councillor on the Vale of Glamorgan Council, is also a former Vale Mayor.

The South Wales Central AM and Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies, said:

"Emlyn's award is one which is hugely deserving given his steadfast commitment to public service, to his friends and colleagues, and the many positive causes he has supported."

"Having served for 38 years as a councillor, Emlyn, has been a shining example of how to conduct yourself in public life. As a

councillor he was the first port of call for his constituents and was always willing to support new colleagues, teaching good practice and conduct."

"He has also been an inspiration to many young men in his community, with 12 years in the probation service often working with young adults from difficult backgrounds and challenging upbringings. Even in retirement he has retained a close bond with many of the people he helped onto the right path."

"A true local champion in Barry, there is not one person who deserves such an honour more and this is a testament to his years of commitment to the local community."

David Street received an MBE. He told The GEM that he had been active in politics for over 40 years.

It was during his time as a community councillor at St Athan that he felt there was a need for a body to represent small councils



Mr Gareth Williams received an OBE.

and to offer training and advice.

He said: "At the time there were two rival bodies who did not talk to each other, and neither was doing a good job."

He campaigned for a new body and 'One Voice Wales' was the result.

Mr Street was the first chairman of the body, and the organisation now represents and offers services to 550 member councils.

Helena Charles, aged 97 and receiving the BEM, was the oldest recipient of an honour in Wales. She received a Mayor's Citizenship award from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) in 2013 for her work in the community over many years, including fundraising efforts with the Dan Y Mynydd Knitting Club.

She was also involved in organising regular trips to the UK for children from Chernobyl.

Basil Priest, a comparative youngster at 85, also received a BEM. He became involved with Marie Curie in Penarth after observing the care given to his wife, who died at the hospice in 1987.

Ever since then, he has been a volunteer there, doing a range of general duties. He said: "Holme Towers helped me get through the pain

of my wife's death, and having somewhere to go and do something useful made a huge difference."

He said that continuing with his volunteering had kept him active, and he had no plans to stop.

He added: "I was proud to receive the award, but there are so many other people – people in the emergency services for instance – who seem to deserve it more."

Andrew Wilson-Mouasher, divisional general manager for Marie Curie, said: "For many years Basil has been incredibly generous in giving up his time and skills to support the work of the charity. He is someone who is popular with patients, families, staff and volunteers alike."

"On behalf of everyone at Marie Curie, I would like to congratulate Basil on this well-deserved recognition. We are very lucky to have his support, and extremely grateful for his dedicated contribution."

## Group sees Ray's vision of robot surgery realised

WELSH rugby legends Eddie Butler and Bob Norster had a front row seat to watch Wales' biggest hospital's surgical robot in action.

The pair were part of a Prostate Cymru group invited to University Hospital of Wales (UHW) to see the £2.5 million robot. The charity has provided funding to support the training of surgeons from across Wales in using the robot.

More than 250 patients have already been treated using the robot, which dramatically reduces recovery time and is much less invasive for the patient.

Eddie Butler said: "We are so proud to be able to visit UHW and see the surgical robot in action. We have been supporting the charity for a few years now and helped raise the funds that went towards the Da Vinci training, so to see it in action was a great experience."

Professor Howard Kynaston, the Professor of Urological Surgery for Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (UHB), said: "We were very pleased to be able to show our supporters from Prostate Cymru how the robot works. Whilst they had seen video footage before, one can really appreciate how much of a leap forward this is in terms of surgery when you see the 3D imaging and the surgical team working with the robot."

He added that the robot had great benefits for patients who



Eddie Butler.

experience a much faster return to normal activities than conventional surgery, with reduced blood loss and peri-operative problems.

Bob Norster, director of sports management company, Engagesport, said: "We are happy to have played our part in fundraising to help towards the necessary training. This is a major step in helping individuals with prostate diseases and we hope many more health boards invest in the service."

The robot, which was funded by the Welsh Government's Health Technology Fund and Cardiff University, has treated 258 patients since it arrived at UHW. It also treats patients from across Wales, with surgeons from Hywel Dda and Abertawe Bro Morgannwg having been trained alongside Cardiff and Vale colleagues.

Andy Thomas, chairman of Prostate Cymru, said the charity was very pleased to see how its funding in training support was

being used.

He said: "It makes an amazing difference to see it there in action. It will drive our ambassadors and fundraisers to campaign harder and have a better understanding of the difference it is making."

Andy, a urologist himself, said that the cancer was one of the most common in Wales, with one in three people having a family history of the disease. He said it was important that those with that history have a conversation with their doctor about the pros and cons of a prostate test.

He said the robot was a great example of collaboration across Wales: "I love the fact that different health boards and surgeons are working together. I think the team is outstanding. I am just impressed with the set-up and with the teamwork on show – plus the fact they have turned this into a high volume service treating hundreds of patients is impressive."

"I think the robot brings fantastic benefits. It benefits the patient and improves their quality of life with 24 hour surgery and a much quicker recovery time. We want to support the robotic project anyway we can."

Operation Robot, the campaign to bring robotic surgery to Cardiff, was launched by Vale cancer patient Ray Murray. His widow Lynne was among the charity group that joined the visit.



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## Redmayne and Vikander impress in The Danish Girl

**L**AST January, Eddie Redmayne's performance as Stephen Hawking in *The Theory of Everything* was the gateway to massive awards season recognition, as the Brit hoovered up nearly every award under the sun.

Fast-forward 12 months and Redmayne is again in awards season contention, this time for his performance in *The Danish Girl*. With a toe in reality, but based on the novel by David Ebershoff, Redmayne plays artist Einar Wegener, married to fellow artist Gerda (Alicia Vikander) but whose latent desire to become a woman comes to the surface when Gerda asks him to dress up for a painting.

With the pair confused by what is happening, their lives become irrevocably changed as Einar, or Lili, begins to live his life as he wants rather than in the way social convention dictates...

With Eddie Redmayne in the lead, and with Tom Hooper (*The King's Speech*, *Les Misérables*) behind the camera, *The Danish Girl* has more than a whiff of awards bait about it. Throw in a subject matter that is touching

and merits discussion, and you have something tailor-made for recognition.

Yet while this can't be argued, the end product is a film that is both incredibly powerful and touching, a story of identity that captivates and connects, yet is perhaps a little too functional and familiar to really linger.

The aces up the sleeve of this particular film come from the lead performances; while Redmayne delivers yet another exceptional performance Vikander is perhaps even more impressive. While the story details Einar's transformation into Lili, Gerda's story is equally as important, as she sees her husband become a friend and companion.

Vikander's turn cements her position as one of the best actresses working today. The performance is subtle and unshowy, yet never fails to capture the emotional impact that she must feel as her world unravels in front of her.

Redmayne has the meatier role, and his performance is superb, the inner turmoil of Einar as his true self comes to the fore both beautiful (the sense of a weight being lifted) and saddening (the realisation that he needs to go to extremes to



by **GARETH  
JAMIESON**  
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melodramatic cliché, as Einar's journey to becoming Lili unfolds, full of evil-looking doctors, anguished feelings and misjudged emotions.

That this is the middle section of the film lends it not inconsiderable sag, but as we reach the climax, and Lili's cause is supported by a doctor who can make her, physically, the woman she longs to be, the film gets back on track, regaining the momentum the middle section loses.

Brilliantly performed, pleasingly directed, if only there was a little less convention to the story being told, as *The Danish Girl* is certainly a powerful film - yet the key to the story feels a little too clichéd to really hit home.

**VERDICT:** An intriguing and emotional story that is a little too sensitively handled in *The Danish Girl*. Eddie Redmayne and Alicia Vikander are tremendous in the lead performances, and Tom Hooper's direction is gorgeous to look at, but the script sags in the middle section and feels a little too clichéd; while the conclusion has dramatic power, it's not quite enough to really hit home. *Enjoyable.*

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## Police seek missing Bridgend man

POLICE are appealing for information to help trace a missing Bridgend man, 30-year-old Marvin Lee James, last seen at Tennyson Drive, Bridgend on Tuesday, December 29 around 11.30pm.

It is understood that he left Tennyson Drive in a silver Ford Transit van, registration number EN08 EAA. He is described as 5'8" tall, of medium build with mousey brown hair and a short beard.

It is believed that he



Marvin Lee James

may have travelled to the Ogmore by Sea area and South Wales Police urge anyone who has any information to contact them on 101, quoting reference number 1500479532.

## REMEMBERING JULIUS CAESAR - the artist, that is!

THE pre-Christmas appearance of Brian Davies, former curator of Pontypridd Museum, at Cowbridge U3A's History Group is fast becoming as much a tradition as decorated trees, mulled wine and mince pies.

This time, the subject of his illustrated talk (given, as usual, without the aid of notes) was the artist Julius Caesar Ibbetson, whose paintings have proved to be an invaluable source of the social history of late 18th century Wales.

They not only depict landscapes and buildings, but also ordinary working people. Ibbetson was born in Yorkshire by the caesarean section that killed his mother, accounting for his Christian names, which he detested all of his life.

He was initially apprenticed to a ship's painter in Hull, but, with the ambition of becoming an artist, he walked to London, where he started working for an art dealer.

He was later to liken the relationship of art dealers to artists as akin to that of butchers to cows! His distinctive work was influenced by the Dutch masters of the 17th century and focussed on the lives of ordinary people at labour and play in everyday surroundings.

Thus he became one of the great founders of British landscape art, a generation before the era of the better-known Constable and Turner.

His Welsh pictures (he produced around 120 watercolour and oils here) include scenes at Conwy and Llanrwst, weavers in Llangollen, Tenby, the waterfalls at Ystradfellte, Briton Ferry, Llantrisant, Tongwynlais, Swansea and Cardiff.

His 1790 painting of the inside of a foundry compares well with the similar one Turner made 20 years later – and has far better depictions of the foundry men.

Ibbetson's 'Bridge of Beauty', a landscape showing the new bridge at Pontypridd in the distance, is now on display at Pontypridd Museum.

His skill as a miniaturist is shown well by this piece, where even the hooves of the cows are finely detailed. On retirement, the artist returned to his home county, where he died in 1817, aged only 58.

Ibbetson is now little known to the general public, but his detailed watercolours of iron furnaces, coal staithes, and copper mines have proved to be an important record of social history, earning him the respect of historians, if not of art experts.

The History Group are already anticipating Brian's next pre-Christmas offering!

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**Wednesday 3.30pm, 5.30pm, and 7.30pm**  
Bridgend Deaf Club,  
Coychurch Road,  
Bridgend  
Helen - 01656 720963

**Thursdays 10.15am**  
St Helen's Church Hall,  
Wyndham Street, Barry  
CF63 4EL  
Nicola - 01446 740394

**Thursdays 5.30pm**  
Highlight Park  
Community Centre,  
Barry Annmarie 01446  
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For more information, please contact Linda on 01446 793545.

## REBOUND & ZUMBA CLASSES

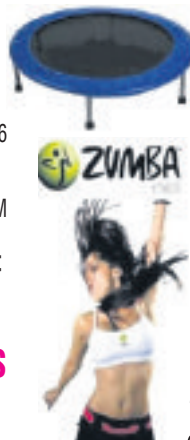
MONDAY LLANTWIT MAJOR RUGBY CLUB  
REBOUND 05:30 & 06:15 PM ZUMBA 07:00 PM

TUESDAY ST ATHAN COMMUNITY CENTRE  
ZUMBA 07:00 PM. STARTS JANUARY 19TH 2016

WEDNESDAY YSGOL GYMRAEG DEWI SANT  
(WELSH SCHOOL, HAM LANE) ZUMBA 07:00 PM

For more information contact  
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BSc (Hons) Pod.M.M.Ch.S

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Llantwit Major CF61 6RB

Call: 01446 771058  
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www.valepodiatry.co.uk

## New beginners' Pilates course

**T**WO new beginners' Pilates courses start this month: the two six-week introductory

courses, suitable for those with little or no experience of Pilates, begin on Monday, January 11 at 12.45pm, or Friday, January 22 at 8.30pm in St Nicholas Hall, Barry.

The cost is £39 for each course.

Pilates is a gentle form of exercise for the whole body, combining strength with flexibility

and postural awareness. Classes are small and friendly and are taught by qualified Pilates teacher, Sharon Sylvester.

The new courses run alongside six existing classes at St Nicholas Hall; there are beginners, improvers and intermediate classes.

A new beginners' class starts in Cardiff on Tuesday, January 12 from 10am, at Gaia Yoga in Roath.

To book your place, contact Sharon on 07830 085606, or email sharonpilates@hotmail.com.

## Pilates Classes

Mondays 9.15am, 10.30, 11.30am  
Thursdays 10am  
Fridays 9.30am, 6pm or 7.15pm

**Barry New Beginners Courses**  
Mondays 12.45pm or Fridays 8.30pm

**Sharon 07830 085606**  
sharonpilates@hotmail.com  
www.barrypilates.co.uk

## 'Ditch the Diet' - and lose weight!

**H**AVE you always struggled with your weight? Yo-yo dieted on

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Well, perhaps we are focusing on all the wrong things - perhaps the answer is not in a diet, perhaps the answer is to 'Ditch the Diet'!

Dawn Garwood, a Barry-based nutritionist, is bringing the Ditch the Diet programme to the Vale of Glamorgan, giving you the opportunity to learn for yourself the principles of successful and sustainable fat loss.

She says: "We will cover such topics as binge eating, emotional eating, sleep, exercise, as well as advice on food intake."

"Come along to one of my free meetings for more information on the programme."

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Monday 18/01/2016 - 7.30pm, Barefoot Studio, Llandow Business Park.  
Thursday 21/01/2016 - 7pm, Cardiff International Pool.

**Contact to start at the next group:**  
Dawn Garwood 07572 451574.  
Hope@DawnNutrition.co.uk  
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## Zumba Gold® classes a great place to start!

**N**EW Zumba Gold classes at All Saints Church in Penarth are a great place to start, whether you are young at heart, new to fitness, or returning to fitness.

I have been working with Age Concern and the success stories range from blood pressure being lowered, osteoporosis eased, and improved hip and knee replacement recovery times.

Zumba Gold fitness also helps with

depression and keeping the heart healthy. It is ideal for active older adults looking for a modified Zumba class that recreates the original moves you love at a lower intensity.

The design of the class introduces easy-to-follow Zumba choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion and coordination. Come ready to sweat, and prepare to leave empowered and feeling strong!

The class focuses on all elements of fitness: cardiovascular, muscular conditioning, flexibility and balance!

Younger Zumba fans, aged 7-11 years old, get the chance to be active and jam out to their favourite music.

Zumba Kids classes feature kid-friendly routines based on original Zumba choreography. We break down the steps, add games, activities and cultural exploration elements into the class structure.

It helps to develop a healthy lifestyle and incorporate fitness as a natural part of children's lives, by making fitness fun.

Classes incorporate key childhood development elements like leadership, respect, team work, confidence, self-esteem, memory, creativity, coordination and cultural awareness.

### ZUMBA GOLD CLASSES

**Monday Classes**  
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Llanrumney British Legion  
(Cardiff) 1.30 - 2.15pm.  
**Highlight**  
Community Hall  
6.15pm - 7pm.

**Wednesday Classes**  
Sully BP Club  
10am - 10.45am.  
**Highlight**  
Park  
11.30am - 12.15pm.

### BRAND NEW ZUMBA GOLD CLASSES

**Every Thursday starting 14th January**  
9.45am - 10.30am (Free session for this date only) and **every Monday** 9.30am - 10.15am at Penarth All Saints Church, Victoria Square.

**ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS**  
**Tuesday Class** Llandough  
War Memorial Hall,  
Llandough 6.45pm - 7.30pm

**ZUMBA KIDS**  
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**11th January**  
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Road, Barry.

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Please call Tracey on 07966 242933  
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TURN TO PAGE 20 FOR MORE IDEAS TO BEAT THOSE  
JANUARY BLUES ...AND FEEL GOOD FOR 2016!

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Call Jennie on 01446 710386 for more details.

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### HAPPY NEW YEAR

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**Chris and Doug Hall**

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To book your appointment, please call **02920 707760**

1 Station Approach, Penarth CF64 3EE. (Free Parking opposite the centre)





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**Lighten up!** Try to keep your school bag light. If there are lockers at your school, keep heavy books in them.

**Use a rucksack!** Carrying a heavy bag over one shoulder creates muscular imbalance and uneven stresses on the joints. Using a rucksack with both straps over your shoulders is far better for you.

If you are worried about your back pain (or any other pain), why not come and visit us, we have over 11 years' experience.

Not sure if we can help? Then book a free advisory consultation with Return 2 Health on 01446 740002...

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# Tory AM's call for 'increase in hospital beds' is 'simplistic' – says health board

**A REGIONAL Conservative AM, Suzy Davies, this week urged the Welsh Government to increase bed numbers at hospitals in the area, after hearing that at one stage, 13 ambulances were queuing up outside the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend on Sunday.**

Ms Davies said paramedics had reported that they were spending their entire shifts sitting outside hospitals run by Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board (ABMU) unable to discharge patients. She claimed Morriston Hospital in Swansea at one time on Sunday had 13 ambulances outside its A&E.

The board countered by saying the comments were "simplistic", adding that opening more hospital beds and staffing them with expensive agency staff would "only store up more problems for the future".

Suzy Davies claimed: "If ever evidence was needed to show that the Welsh Labour Government has axed too many beds, this is it. In the past decade, Welsh Labour has reduced bed numbers by a fifth – at a time when the population is growing and when that population is also ageing."

"Unless they start increasing the numbers of beds at all Welsh hospitals, the crisis we get each winter will intensify. It is already out of control."

She went on: "Ambulance staff are doing their best. How can they respond to category A red calls when they have as many as 28 ambulances tied up outside just two hospitals – and heaven knows what was going on elsewhere. Of course there are no ambulances available under those circumstances to deal with other urgent cases."

"Paramedics are warning that lives will be lost. Our A&E departments in Wales are snowed under with people waiting on trolleys to be admitted to a ward. But bed managers cannot find the beds needed because they no longer exist."

"I am calling on ABMU to start opening up extra beds at its hospitals. Obviously, agency staff will have to be brought in to look after people but what's the alternative?"

### 'FLEXIBILITY'

An Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board spokeswoman replied: "Calling for more hospital beds is overly simplistic and not the answer. If it was that easy, hospitals right across the UK would have done this already, instead of facing ever-increasing pressures in their emergency departments."

"The reality is that the demands on the 21st century NHS have not only increased, but changed. People are living much longer, but unfortunately, many have long-term conditions, and often more than one. We must overhaul the way we deliver care to meet these demands."

"Opening more hospital beds and staffing them with expensive agency staff would only store up more problems for the future, by diverting investment away from where it needs to go."

"However, there is planned flexibility in our hospitals to help deal with particular demand. For example in Morriston Hospital we have opened a theatre admission unit to support the winter pressures by reducing the number of cancelled operations. And for the next couple of weeks we are

keeping the short stay unit at the Princess of Wales Hospital opened at weekends. Our main focus has been on ensuring that we have the right staff available 24/7 for patients."

"But the real answer lies in investing more in community-based health and social care and primary care (GPs) to prevent people coming into hospital in the first place – or if they are admitted, getting them home on time. We also need to be smarter in the way we deal with the flow of patients through our hospitals, avoiding unnecessary hold-ups."

"We are already well down the road with these improvements in ABMU, but it is not a quick fix. We are already working closely with GPs and local authorities to increasingly deliver more care in people's own homes, where they want to be and where they recover better. However there is still much more to do."

"We are also improving hospital processes to remove delays, and this is reflected in some of our latest ambulance turnaround times. Since our new improvement scheme began in December, the numbers of long ambulances waits outside Morriston Hospital (over an hour) have dropped considerably to an average of three a day instead of 13, and on many days last month there were none at all."

"Likewise, the number of emergency department patients waiting over 12 hours before being admitted or discharged halved in December, since the new scheme kicked in."

The spokeswoman emphasised: "Last weekend's situation was exceptional, because of a huge rise of up to 25 per cent more medical emergencies than we would normally expect for this time of year, coupled with staff sickness."

"Longer term, the ARCH programme which we are progressing with our partners Hywel Dda University Health Board and Swansea University will help transform the way we deliver care across the region."

## Political eye-opener for star Matthew!

**PLAYING** the scheming political advisor Harri James in S4C's new drama, *Byw Celwydd*, has given Porthcawl-born actor Matthew Gravelle an insight into what happens at the Senedd, and it's been quite an eye opener!

Byw Celwydd continues on Sunday, January 10, with Harri intending to make his mark and strengthen the nationalists' hand in Cardiff Bay. And even in his own party, his straight-talking and scheming is bound to ruffle a few feathers.

Although fictional, the themes and characters in *Byw Celwydd* have been inspired by the Senedd.

"What we're trying to do is reflect politics in Wales, while exploring new possibilities. I've thoroughly enjoyed the process, because before *Byw Celwydd*, I didn't have a clue how things worked politically in this country," Matthew said.

"It's been a real eye-opener for me and now I can see that people



play one person against the other," added Matthew, who played Joe Miller in the successful ITV crime drama, *Broadchurch*.

His character in *Byw Celwydd* is unlike any other character he has played: "Harri tries to take the lead and influence others."

"He's a manipulator, and he certainly manipulates people to do whatever he believes the nationalists need to do to reach the top."

Matthew (39) lives in Cardiff with his actress wife Mali Harries, and their two children.

*Byw Celwydd* is on Sunday, January 10, 9pm, S4C with English subtitles; also on Tuesday, January 12 at 10pm with on-screen English subtitles;

Website: [s4c.cymru](http://s4c.cymru).

## GOING BEHIND THE LENS Tips from the Vale Camera Club

**IF** you were lucky enough to receive a new camera for Christmas, here are a few tips for taking better photographs from the Vale Photographic Club:

1. When photographing children or pets, kneel down and take the photograph at their level. The 'view from above' is one we see every day, getting down lower gives a 'not so commonly seen' view, and a more interesting photograph as a result.

2. Dead centre is dead boring – moving your subject off to one side (known as the rule of thirds) will significantly improve your photograph.

3. Good photographers are aware of the background as they are the subject – particularly look out for poles, trees or branches appearing to stick out of your

subject's head. You may not notice it when taking the photo, but everyone viewing the photo will see it, with much resulting hilarity!

4. If your camera allows it, shoot in RAW. With suitable editing software, RAW allows a greater range of adjustments to be made to the photograph, giving the potential to 'save' a wrongly exposed photograph e.g. children's party pictures indoors that can appear too dark.

5. Make the effort to learn the semi automatic modes on your camera e.g. aperture and shutter priority modes. They give far greater control over artistic qualities of the photograph, such as amount (depth) of focus, and freezing (or blurring) of motion.

6. Use white balance to change the 'feel' of a photograph – lower white balance gives a blue 'cooler' feel, great for

winter photographs or where you want to emphasise a cold winters day. Higher white balance gives a yellow 'warmer' feel, great for emphasising the warmth of a summer sunset or the golden colour of autumn leaves.

Hopefully, these tips have got you off to a good start. To learn more, why not consider joining the Vale Photographic Club?

Whether you're looking to develop your skills as a serious photographer, just starting out with a new camera, or simply looking to take better photographs of the kids, you'll be most welcome.

For further information, visit the website at <http://www.vale-photographic-club.co.uk>. The club meets every Friday from September to July at 7.15pm in the Ystradowen Village hall.

ANDREW COLEMAN

## New base for local cancer support group

**THE Barry branch of the Cardiff and Vale Breast Cancer Support Group has a new home.**

This year they will be meeting in the Mary Lennox Room at Barry Hospital, Colcot Road, Barry, CF62 8YH.

The group meets on the third Friday of every month from 2pm until 4pm. Anyone who has had a diagnosis of breast cancer at some point in their life, or is currently undergoing

treatment, is welcome to come along to this friendly and supportive group on a purely 'drop-in' basis.

The next meeting is on January 15, when there will be a talk from Carol Young on 'Laughter for Health'.

More information can be obtained from Pam on 07919 035658 or via the website <http://www.breastfriendscandv.org.uk>.





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# Out & About with The GEM

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## What's on and where in your area?

### Bank closure surgery

**THIS** Friday, January 8 from 4pm – 6pm, Vale AM Jane Hutt will hold a special surgery at The Heritage Centre, Llantwit Major Town Hall, to discuss the campaign against the proposed closure of Barclays Bank in the town. All welcome to attend.

### Mayor's coffee

A COFFEE morning in aid of Motivation Learning Trust and Prostate Cymru, will be held by the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian in the Mayor's parlour at Cowbridge town hall on Saturday, January 9 from 10.30am – 12.30pm.

### Toys and trains

**THE** Cardiff toy and train sale takes place on Saturday, January 9 at 10.30am – 3pm in the Penarth Leisure Centre, Andrew Road, Cogan, CF64 2NS.

For full details contact 01643 702757 and 07966 694579 or www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk.

### Barratts at St Bride's

**THE** monthly meeting of the St Bride's Major community council will be held on January 11, at All Saints' Church, Southerndown at 7pm.

A representative of Barratts' development team will be in attendance at this meeting.

### Care and Repair

**CARE** and Repair Cardiff and Vale help older homeowners and private tenants adapt and maintain their homes, and can give advice on grants available; also information on reputable companies to use.

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding an information session on January 12 from 10am to 12pm.

No appointment is needed, just come along and have a chat to one of the advisers from Care and Repair at The Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry. Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

### Cowbridge U3A

**THE** next Cowbridge U3A meeting will be entitled: *The Incredible Life of Dr William Price*, by Dean Powell, at 2pm on Wednesday, January 13 in Cowbridge Town Hall.

Visitors welcome (there is a small fee, which includes refreshments).

### Stargaze in the Vale

**TIMED** to coincide with the BBC's *Stargazing*

**Live**, on Thursday, January 14 the Cardiff Astronomical Society will open its observatory to the public from 7pm – 9pm at Dyffryn Gardens.

Officers will be on hand to present a tour of the night sky and there will be manned telescopes, as well as stargazing information and advice from experienced astronomers.

The event is free and people can bring their own telescopes and binoculars if they wish.

Pre-book on 02920 593328, email Dyffryn@nationaltrust.org.uk or go to visitor reception, open daily from 10am.

In the event of bad weather, presentations will be given by members of the society. Martin Chick, chairman said: "We try to hold this every year and, weather permitting, we hope to give people the opportunity to see the wonders of the universe through our telescopes, as well as access to knowledgeable astronomers."

For further information, contact Theresa Cooper on 01656 646920;

Public.Events.Organizer@cardiffastronomical-society.co.uk.

### Computer classes

**FREE** classes for seniors will offer one-to-one tuition by students of UWC Atlantic College in computer skills, including sending emails, creating word documents, 'surfing the net' and online shopping.

They will be held on Wednesday afternoons, from January 20 at UWC Atlantic College, St Donat's Castle, Llantwit Major CF61 1WF. Call Christine on 01446 799076 for details

## Ty Hafan lottery

**THE** following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D912.

● **£2,000:** 386891.  
● **The rollover, which now stands at £4,500 was not not won this week.**  
● **£10:** 413967, 859964, 267284, 394195, 641265, 707943, 885867, 803553, 491997, 682844, 971026, 790673, 300139, 454331, 883053, 215085, 665102, 221132, 967618, 413967, 329892, 591883, 299430, 602762, 262897, 950252, 272446, 193743, 260359, 516406, 726.  
● **£5:** 216004, 337188, 368149, 549443, 805140, 253726, please telephone 029 2053 2300.

## African children's choir to sing at hall

**AN** inspiring evening of music takes place at St David's Hall, Cardiff, with the African Children's Choir on Thursday, January 14 at 7.30pm.

To book, call the box office on 02920 878444.

The African Children's Choir is made up of some of the neediest and most vulnerable children in their countries. Many have lost one or both parents to poverty or disease. The African Children's Choir helps these children break away from the everyday

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## FARMERS' MARKET REWARDS LOYALTY



Winners receiving their prizes from Market Chairman, Anne Loam.



**THE** Vale of Glamorgan Farmers' Market loyalty card draw was made the week before Christmas and the lucky winners collected their prizes at the Christmas markets in Cowbridge and Penarth.

The Penarth winners who collected their prizes at the Penarth Christmas Market on December 19 were:

First prize, Christmas hamper of Farmers' Market produce – Rod Phillips; second prize, Tregwilym Produce Christmas cake – Mr and Mrs Pierson; third prize, Flapjack Fairy selection box – Claire Hooper.

The Cowbridge prize winners collected their prizes at Cowbridge on

Myfanwy Edwards

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Entrance £5.00  
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Email: frankingrd@gmail.com

## Saint Dwynwen dinner will aid George Thomas hospice

**EVERY** year love is in the air much earlier in Wales as we celebrate Santes Dwynwen, the Welsh patron saint of love on January 25.

In honour of this, George Thomas Hospice Care is again holding an evening of fine food and opera at Giovanni's, Cardiff.

The story goes that in the fifth century, Dwynwen fell in love with Maclon Dafodrill, who returned her feelings

but for an unknown reason, they could not be together.

Dwynwen, distraught by her love for Maclon, prays to fall out of love with him. She was visited by an angel, who appeared carrying a sweet potion designed to erase all memory of Maclon and turn him into a block of ice.

God then gave three wishes to Dwynwen; first, she wished that Maclon be thawed; second, that God meet the hopes and dreams of true lovers; and third, that she should never

marry. All three were fulfilled, and as a mark of her thanks, Dwynwen devoted herself to God's service for the rest of her life.

Following a sparkling reception at 7pm, guests will be treated to a three-course meal with coffee and then serenaded by stars of Welsh opera as they sing romantic West End hits and light opera.

Tickets are £28 each and are available from George Thomas Hospice Care on 029 2052 4150.

See [www.gthc.org.uk](http://www.gthc.org.uk) for further information, or telephone 02920 524150.

The Cardiff hospice is presently caring for several hundred patients with life-threatening illnesses and their families and takes on over 13 new patients every week.

Since its establishment in 1984, it has supported over 24,000 patients.

**Nicky Piper MBE,** Corporate fundraising and events manager

## OFF THE BOOKSHELF...

**IT** may not be the weather for walking just yet but when the days are a bit drier arm yourself with a copy of *Walks for All Age – 20 Circular Walks in the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend*, by Hugh Taylor and Moira McCrossan (published by Bradwell Books at £4.99).

This handy little book includes 20 walks up to six miles that the authors have carefully chosen to give you an enjoyable

day or half day in the countryside and are suitable for all the family, with detailed descriptions of the walks and useful snippets of information.

Meanwhile, from the suburbs of 1950s Cardiff to present-day America and beyond, Peter Finch explores how much music has shaped his life, while charting the changes it has undergone throughout the last six decades in his book *The Roots of Rock* published by Seren Books of Bridgend and which costs £9.99.

Two delightful young children's books, both published by the bookguild.co.uk and both costing £8.99 are Lola Pug and Unicorn Power.

The latter by Andrea Miller is about a princess who can't dance and needs to learn fast as she has been invited to a ball.

*Lola Pug*, by Carina Lagnado with illustrations by Emily Colenso, is a family who buy a cute, funny little pug who gets up to all sorts of things!

BRIAN LEE

## PLANS UNDER WAY FOR VALE JAZZ FESTIVAL

**THE** organisers of the Vale Jazz Festival are starting to plan this year's event which will be on again from May 20 – 22.

It will be held in venues throughout Barry including: Marco's, Coffee Cove, The West End Club and The Park pub.

A spokesman said: "If anyone would like to host part of the festival or

join the sponsors for this event they are asked to get in touch with the chair, Gemma Collard. The group is looking for sponsorship for publicity, and for venues to pay a fee for bands as part of the plan for another 'free' event."

For further information either email [Gemma.Collard@getarockon@sky.com](mailto:Gemma.Collard@getarockon@sky.com) or visit the website at [www.valejazzweekend.com](http://www.valejazzweekend.com).

## CYBER CAFÉ'S NEW SITE AT LOCAL SCHOOL

**CHILDREN** returned to Colcot Primary School after the Christmas break to find an exciting new addition to one of their learning spaces for 2016.

A corridor had been transformed into a brand new Cyber Café, which was ready to be used by the children.

Year-6 children had worked with Bradley from the Illustrate Project to design a graffiti wall for the

Cyber Café. They helped spray the outline for the art work and see the wall develop.

"Staff at the school are very excited about using the new Cyber Café to enhance children's ICT skills and to enhance connections with school from around the world by using Mystery Skype," a spokesman said.

"Bradley will also be returning to school to complete smaller graffiti projects with the year-6 children, which will be displayed around the new Cyber Café."



# It was a very good year... Gareth Jamieson looks back and chooses his top ten films of 2015

THE year 2015 may have ended with a bang, as the force most definitely awoke with the latest Star Wars film, but the previous 11 months were certainly no cinematic slouches.

As ever, condensing the best films of the year into an easily-digestible 10 was never easy (my apologies, in no particular order, to *Kingsman*, *Ex Machina*, *Still Alice*, *The Overnight* and *Me, Earl & The Dying Girl*, *Carol*, *Jurassic World*, *Steve Jobs* and *Tomorrowland*, amongst others) but here

are Screen Talk's top 10 films of 2015.

**10. Star Wars: The Force Awakens** – Quite simply, the biggest cinematic phenomenon of the year had no right to be this good, yet JJ Abrams' awakening of the franchise yielded impressive results.

Bringing the franchise back full circle after the leaden prequel trilogy, *The Force Awakens* cleaved close to Episode IV in feel and structure. With newcomers Daisy Ridley, John Boyega and Adam Driver shining in their roles, the force was certainly strong here.

**9. It Follows** – The rule of horror is the less you see, the scarier it is, a commandment that writer/director David Robert Mitchell used here in this story of teens being possessed by a supernatural force and the only way to get rid of it is by passing it on sexually.

Working on many levels, and delivering jumps and scares without telegraphing them, *It Follows* delivered a shot in the arm to the genre.

**8. Amy** – Asif Kapadia showed with the mighty *Senna* that he was capable of making documentaries of icons and granting them a cinematic feel, and he did it again with *Amy*.

Using voice-over and archive footage, Kapadia scrubbed below the hype to show Amy Winehouse as the troubled, talented soul she was. Heartbreaking, it was a sad reminder of the singer, delivered powerfully.

**7. Selma** – Shunned by the Academy Awards, *Selma* was the story of Martin Luther King's campaign to secure equal voting rights by marching – and what an incredibly powerful film it was. Director Ava DuVernay managed to treat the material with both respect and an incisive eye for detail, while David Oyelowo's performance as King was shuddering in its detail and power – a truly mesmerising film.

**6. Sicario** – Denis Villeneuve has barely put a foot wrong with his previous films, but *Sicario* took his dark, murky world view and parlayed into something engrossing and dripping with tension.

Few directors could make a normal car journey so taut, yet Villeneuve's film never let up, only the end credits allowing you to relax in this familiar, yet invigorating, story of drug cartels.

**5. Inherent Vice** – Paul Thomas Anderson's adaptation of Thomas Pynchon's novel was one of the most meandering and woozy of the year; yet underneath the shaggy-dog story lay strong direction from Anderson, a pin-sharp script and in Joaquin Phoenix and Josh Brolin, two excellent performances that made this *Vice* a good one!

**4. Inside Out** – If Pixar's last few releases had shown a chink in their previously invincible armour, then *Inside Out* showed that when on song there are few who can touch them. A brightly coloured story of feelings and emotions that works on levels both young and old, it was an indelible film that amused and touched in equal measure; should you remain dry-eyed at the mention of Bing Bong, then your heart is a frozen wasteland.

**3. Mad Max: Fury Road** – In an age where blockbusters are ten a penny, and, more importantly, are finding their identity blurred by generic traits, there was something punk rock about George Millar's return to the character of Max Rockatansky, this time brought to life vividly by Tom Hardy.

Millar's film was testosterone in its ostentatious action beats, yet was also a film where the real heroes were females, a refreshing element; visually stunning, Millar showed just how good he can be here.

**2. Birdman** – Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's wonderful look at a fading star (Michael Keaton on incredible form) was a technical triumph, shot in what looked one long take, but also offered substance as well as style, with superb performances across the board and a story that had no hesitation in pricking the ego of Hollywood and its obsession with superheroes and franchises; ironically, *Birdman* was one of the most refreshing and innovative films of the year.

**1. Whiplash** – Debut director Damien Chazelle (cymbal) crashed into the year with this pupil-teacher story that played to its own beat.

The relationships were familiar (headstrong teacher, eager to please pupil), but with incredible performances from J K Simmons as the former and Miles Teller as the latter, this drum-based drama skewed notions of predictability to offer something caustic and chilling.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE IN PORTHCAWL AND THE SEA SHOWS ITS STRENGTH!



ABOVE: Recently, it was revealed that one particular photo of Porthcawl's harbour light, dwarfed by huge waves, had become the second most watched picture on the Flickr website. Porthcawl's breakwater on a stormy day is now a magnet for photographers, and the seas were high again on New Year's Eve, when Sue Dobbs took this image.

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## Lowri Cooke yn holi Esther Whitfield

### CERDYN POST O BOSTON

Mae Esther Whitfield, sy'n 43 oed ac yn wreiddiol o ardal Penarth, yn Athro ym Mhrifysgol Brown yn nhalaith Rhode Island. Mae hi'n byw gyda'i gŵr, Jeff Seul, a'u plant Ellis (sy'n 9) a Carys (sy'n 6) ger dinas Boston.



y dŵr.

Un o ble ydych chi'n wreiddiol?

Dwi'n wreiddiol o Dinas Powys ond fe symudon ni i Benarth tra ro'n i'n ddisgyl yn Ysgol Glantaf. Fel plentyn, ro'n i'n hoffi mynd lawr i'r pier a'r traeth, a Cosmeston a'r Barri, felly bob tro fyddwn ni nol yng Nghymru byddai'n mynd yno gyda'r plant.

Sut lanioch chi'n ardal Boston a beth ydych chi'n ei wneud yno?

Ar ôl gadael Coleg yr Iwerydd yn Sain Dunwyd, fe es i i Venezuela, Prifysgol Rhydychen a Llundain, cyn ennill Doethuriaeth mewn Llenyddiaeth America Ladin ym Mhrifysgol Harvard ger dinas Boston. Arhosais i yn yr Unol Daleithiau ar ôl a chwrdd â Jeff, fy ngŵr, a chanaf swydd ro'n i'n mwynhau; ers 2002, dwi'n dysgu yn adran Llenyddiaeth Gymharol Prifysgol Brown yn Providence, Rhode Island. Ry'n ni'n byw yn Sharon, tu fas i Boston - lle hyfryd i fagu plant. Mae na hufenfa leol yno sy'n cynhyrchu hufen iâ, fferm ffrwythau, a choedwig braf i fynd am dro, a llyn lle gallwch chi nofio yn yr haf. Cyn cael plant, fe fuon ni'n byw yn Charlestown, sy'n ardal hynafol yn Boston, ar lan

## Gweithgareddau Cyfrwng Cymraeg Cyngor Bro Morgannwg

**Dathliad Hen Galan**  
Ymweliad gan y Fari Lwyd, noson hwyl i'r teulu, canu, a darlith/sgwrs gan Siwan Rosser - nos Lun Ionawr 11eg, 18.30-20.30 yng Nghanolfan Palmerston.

**Darlith**  
"Tradodiad y Fari Lwyd" gan Dr Siwan Rosser (Rhan o ddatblygiad yr Hen Galan) - nos Lun Ionawr 11eg, 19.30-20.30 yng Nghanolfan Palmerston.

Cofiwch bod rhaglen o weithgareddau cymdeithasol eraill, megis Amser Stori, Coffi Cymraeg, Côr Cymraeg, Gemau Bwrdd a Chlone Cymraeg Digidol, hefyd yn parhau yn wythnosol drwy'r tymor.

Am fanylion pellach, cysylltwch â Mared Fumham: mfmumham@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk / 01446 733762

## CLYBIAU WYTHNOSOL I BLANT A THEULUOEDD



**Bydd clybiau'r Urdd a Menter Bro Morgannwg yn ail gychwyn eto ym mis Ionawr!**  
**Dewch i ymuno â'r clybiau:**

Cysylltwch â garetheast@urdd.org neu ar 07557 322891 i bwcio mewn.

Dyma lun o'r plant yn mwynhau yn ein clwb Athletau!

Dydd / Cyfnod	Clwb	Lleoliad	Amser	Pris	Oed
Llun 10 wythnos Dechrau 11/01/16	Athletau	Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg. CF62 8YU	6-7yh	£30	Bl. 1-6
Llun 10 wythnos Dechrau 11/01/16	Tenis Bwrdd	Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg. CF62 8YU	6-7yh	£30	Bl. 3-6
Sul 10 wythnos Dechrau 10/01/16	Nofio	Canolfan Hamdden Penarth. CF64 2NS	8.00-10.30yb	£35	3 oed - Bl.6
Mercher 10 wythnos Dechrau 13/01/16	Nofio	Canolfan Hebron. CF64 4YB	3.45-4.15yp 4.15-4.45yp	£35	Derbyn - Bl. 4
Gwener 13 wythnos Dechrau 15/01/16	Nofio	Canolfan Hamdden Y Barri. CF63 4RU	4.00-6.45yp	£35	Dosbarth Derbyn
Gwener 7 wythnos Dechrau 22/01/16	Plantos Heini	YMCA y Barri. CF63 4EE	1.30-2.30yp	£21	2-4 oed
Sadwrn 7 wythnos Dechrau 23/01/16	Rygi Bach	Ysgol Stanwell. CF64 2XL	11.30-12yp 11.30-12.15yp	£35 £49	2.5-3 oed 3-4 oed

## CYFARFOD BLYNYDDOL MENTER BRO MORGANNWG

Cynhelir Cyfarfod Blynnyddol Menter Bro Morgannwg ar nos Lun Ionawr 25ain, am 7.30pm yn y Park Hotel, Y Barri CF62 6HE. Dewch i edrych yn ôl ar waith y Fenter dros y 12 mis diwethaf, ac i drafod datblygiadau cyffwrus ar gyfer 2016. Siaradwr gwadd: Heini Gruffudd (Arbenigwr Iaith a Chadeirydd Dyfodol yr Iaith). Croeso i baw! RSVP erbyn Ionawr 22ain os gwelwch yn dda - fion@menterbromorgannwg.cymru / 029 2068 9888

## DAI LINGUAL YN MYND AM DRO YN Y FRO...I SAIN TATHAN

I barhau gyda'n taith hamddenol ar draws Bro Morgannwg, llithrwn ar hyd yr Afon Dawan (wel, mae hi'n weddol aeafol felly dewch â'ch esgidiau sglefrïo rhag ofn!) er mwyn cyrraedd nepell o Lanilltud, sef - nid St Athan ond yn hytrach Sain Tathan.

Fel mae'n digwydd, hyd y gwelaf i - ac o ystyried fy mod yn ymwelwr cyson a brwd â Sain Ffagan - dylai synnu neb bod ystyr Sain felly'n hunan-esboniadwy o nawr tan Wyl Sain Dewi, tra bod Tathan druan wedi colli ei T. Mae hi siŵr o fod yn genfigennus o [FF]fagan felly!

Yr wythnos hon edrychwn arlein ar Wicipedia i weld mai neb

llai nag ein hewythr doeth Iolo Morgannwg sy'n awgrymu taw merch i frenin Gwent oedd Tathan. Er gymbaid o edmygedd sydd gen i at Went am oroesi mor hir pan mae mor agos at Glawdd Offa, mae'n amlwg i mi paham oedd Tathan am ddod i lethrau'r Fro yn hytrach na dolau Gwent. Rydw i'r union yr un fath - gen i deulu i'r dwyrain o Gasnewydd ble mae'n anodd dros ben i gynnal addysg Gymraeg i blant felly dylen ni ymfalchïo'n fyfwrwy yn ysgolion ein bro.

Ystyriwn wrth gwrs

## Sesiynau Tylino Babi gyda Twf

Bob dydd lau am 10yb, yn Llyfrgell y Bontfaen. Cwrs newydd yn dechrau Ionawr 15fed. Archebwch trwy ffonio Sioned ar 07791 023363.

Trefnwdd gan 'Twf: Cymraeg o'r Crud'

bod Iolo - yn ogystal â bod yn ddoeth tu hwnt - byth wedi dewc celwydd tra bu fyw felly hynny'n Gospel felly!

Gerllaw'r pentref Sain Tathan mae canolfan filwrol MOD St Athan, RAF St Athan gynt. Does dim da yn dod mas o ryfel, a buaswn i'n cynnwys canolfan St Athan yn hynny o beth hefyd.

Mae Llanilltud wrth gwrs yn fan sanctaidd (bron) oherwydd taw fan yna nes i chwarae ar yr un llwyfan, ar yr un noson - a Meic Stevens...ond stori arall yw honno.

I blant 2½-3 oed: bob dydd Sadwrn yn dechrau Ionawr 23 i 11.30am-12pm yn Ysgol Stanwell, Penarth i £35 am gwsr 7 wythnos

I blant 3-4 oed: bob dydd Sadwrn yn dechrau Ionawr 23 i 11.30am-12.15pm yn Ysgol Stanwell, Penarth i £49 am gwsr 7 wythnos

Plantos Heini - I blant 2-4 oed

**CYRSIAU HAMDDEN I OEDOLION**

**Sesiwn Yoga** - sesiwn yoga ymlacieg a hamddenol dan arweiniad Mari Rhys.

Dydd Sadwrn, Ionawr 30ain i 10.30am-1pm yn Ffestri Capel Bethel, Penarth i £8

**Hanes y Gymraeg ym Mro Morgannwg** - 'Llanw a Thrai, Trai a Llanw' - Ymwunwch â Dr Dylan Foster

Evans mewn sesiwn rhyngweithiol i ddod i ddeall rhagor am ddiwylliant cyfoethog y Gymraeg yn y Fro o'r

## ANGHARAD

**BLWYDDYD newydd dda i chi gyd a gobeithio y bydd 2016 yn flwyddyn llawn o bethes hyfryd.**

Dyma fy erthygl olaf i'r Gem, am y tro beth bynnag, ac felly dwi am ddiolch eto i'r papur am roi gofod teilwng i'r Gymraeg. Mae'n anhygoel mewn gwirionedd cymaint o faich yw brwydr yr iaith o hyd gyda gormod o benderfyniadau naill ai yn nwylo gwleidyddion yn Llundain sy'n deall dim neu yn nwylo gwleidyddion ym Mae Caerdydd sy'n rhy llugor o lawer.

Cymrwch S4C. Y trysor yng nghoron yr iaith ers dros ddeg mlynedd ar hugain. Wedi'r cwbl, mae cael darlledwr yn ein hiaith ni'n hunain o bwysigrwydd anferthol. Ond yn yr adolygiad gwariant noli ym mis Tachwedd cyhoeddwyd y byddai'r gwasanaethau cyhoeddus ariannir gan yr Adran Ddiwylliant - y DCMS - yn colli 5.1% o'u cyllid ar wahân i rhai fel Arts Council England fyddai'n cael codiad sylweddol ac ar wahân i S4C fyddai'n colli 26%! Doedd dim rheswm na rhesymeg tu ol i'r penderfyniad, dim ond pwniad arall i'r iaith. Neges oedd yn dweud yn glir "ffitio chi Gymry Cymraeg" neu yng ngeiriau Aelod Seneddol Ceidwadol Aberconwy Guto Bebb, fu'n ddigon dewr chwarae teg i ymateb i'r anhegwch, "cie faleisius".

Eleni fe fydd cyllideb a thynged S4C yn nwylo'r BBC. Y peryg nawr yw y bydd anhegwch y llywodraeth yn olau gwyrd iddynt hwythau roi cie i'r gymuned Gymraeg hefyd. Yr ofn mawr yw os byddan nhw'n torri rhagor oddi ar y gyllideb fe allai fod yn anhosib i'r Sianel barhau fel ag y mae.

Byddai ennill ond wedyn colli sianel deledu Cymraeg mewn cyfnod o ddeugain mlynedd yn drasiad llwyr. Felly mae'n rhaid i ni gofio mai ein cyfnod ni yw hwn. Ein dyletswydd ni yw i aedael i lywodraeth Cymru a Phrydain wybod am bwysigrwydd S4C. Gwn i'n haedol seneddol Alun Cairns weithio'n galed o blaid y setliad gorau posib i'r Sianel, ond ni all weithredu ar ei ben ei hun. Ysgrifennwch ato fe, a'r BBC yn Llundain i ddatgan yn glir ein bod yn mynnu ein hawliau. Ysgrifennwch hefyd at yr Aelod Cynulliad lleol, Jane Hutt o'r blaidd Lafur, i ofyn beth yw eu cynlluniau nhw i sicrhau bod parhad i'r sianel deledu ni, cyn ei bod hi rhy hwyr.



## GWEITHGAREDDAU TEULU TYMOR Y GWANWYN

**Dyma fanylion y cyrsiau a'r gweithgareddau sy'n ail-ddechrau ym mis Ionawr:**

**Amser Stori** - i blant 0-4 oed a'u rhieni

Llyfrgell y Barri - bob dydd Mawrth yn ail-ddechrau Ionawr 12fed, 10.30-11am i AM DDIM

Llyfrgell Llanilltud Fawr - bob dydd lau yn ail-ddechrau Ionawr 14eg, 10.30-11am i AM DDIM

**Rygi Bach** - I blant 2½-3 oed: bob dydd Sadwrn yn dechrau Ionawr 23 i 11.30am-12pm yn Ysgol Stanwell, Penarth i £35 am gwsr 7 wythnos

I blant 3-4 oed: bob dydd Sadwrn yn dechrau Ionawr 23 i 11.30am-12.15pm yn Ysgol Stanwell, Penarth i £49 am gwsr 7 wythnos

Plantos Heini - I blant 2-4 oed

Bob dydd Gwener yn dechrau Ionawr 22 i 1.30-2.30pm yn Gampfa YMCA, Y Barri i £21 am gwsr 7 wythnos

**Noffio i Ddechreuwr** - I blant meithrin a dosbarth derbyn

Bob dydd Sul yn dechrau Ionawr 10 i 8.30-9.30am yng Nghanolfan Hamdden Penarth i £35 am gwsr 10 wythnos

Gallwch gofrestru ar gyfer unrhyw un o'r cyrsiau uchod ar wefan y Fenter, neu os hoffech fwy o wybodaeth, cysylltwch â fion@menterbromorgannwg.cymru / 029 20689888.

Trefnwdd mewn partneriaeth rhwng Menter Bro Morgannwg ac Adran Chwaraeon yr Urdd. Cynhalyddir cefnogaeth Cronfa Ariannol i Loieri a Chyngor Tref y Barri

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## Public speaking trio 'a credit to their school'



### Labour surgery

LABOUR Vale of Glamorgan and Barry town councillors for Castleland Ward, Chris Elmore, Pamela Drake, Les Sword and Karl Kunnell will be holding their regular monthly advice surgery on Saturday, January 9, at the Drop-In Centre, Castleland Community Centre, Belvedere Crescent, Barry from 10.30am until 12pm.

No appointment is necessary. If you need advice, but can't attend, contact Coun Elmore on 07867 506 116, or email [celmore@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:celmore@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk).

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...  
[www.barry-today.co.uk](http://www.barry-today.co.uk)  
[www.cowbridge-today.co.uk](http://www.cowbridge-today.co.uk)  
[www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk](http://www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk)  
[www.bridgend-today.co.uk](http://www.bridgend-today.co.uk)  
[www.porthcawl-today.co.uk](http://www.porthcawl-today.co.uk)

**ABOVE:**  
 Daley, Rhys, Ms Thomas and Mark after winning the first round of the ESU-Churchill public speaking competition.

THE Barry Comprehensive School is celebrating a superb performance by the public speaking team that won the first round of the ESU-Churchill competition.

The talented trio consisted of: Mark Williams and Rhys Powell (both in year-9) and Daley Chapman (year -10), who faced tough competition against teams from St Cyres and Westbourne School for a place in the next round.

Rhys Powell, speaking at St Cyres School, confidently

shared his view that greed is a destructive and reductive quality for an individual to possess in society today; although, he argued, greed would have once served a purpose for survival.

Miss Thomas, the team's coach, said: "Taking part in the ESU-Churchill public speaking competition has been a truly rewarding and enjoyable experience for the students."

"They are a real credit to the school and we are looking forward to competing in the regional finals next March."

## Christmas cheer for the elderly

VOLUNTEERS from the Vale Council's Greenlinks community transport service teamed up with Age Connects Cardiff and the Vale, to bring festive cheer to older people on Christmas Day.

Thanks to the Greenlinks team providing free door-to-door transport, a number of older people were able to attend Christmas events organised by Age Connects and the Glamorgan Voluntary Service.

Eighteen guests enjoyed Christmas lunch and entertainment at Bethel Baptist Church in Llantwit Major, while a further nine were able to join the residents at Golau Caredig in Barry for Christmas lunch.

Jane Platts of Age Connects Cardiff & the Vale said: "If it wasn't for the Greenlinks service and John Hawkins and Conway Hawkins, the wonderful volunteers who drove the buses, many of those who enjoyed Christmas Day lunch would not have been able to attend the events."

"We would just like to say thank you for making the day happen. Both events were so successful they will definitely be run again next Christmas!"

Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for

regeneration, said:

"Working in partnership with Age Connects, I am extremely pleased that we could donate the use of the Greenlinks buses and help bring some festive cheer to those who needed it. I would like to pass on my congratulations and thanks to Age Connects, Wiltshire Farm Foods and those community-minded volunteers who worked together to put on this special event."

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale offer services for older people including befriending and advocacy. For more information, contact Jane Platts on 01446 795631 or email [jane.platts@ageconnects.org.uk](mailto:jane.platts@ageconnects.org.uk).

### Coffee for charity

THE Mayor of Barry, Coun Emma Pritchard, will be hosting a coffee morning on Thursday, January 21 at Tŷ Hapus, 163 Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4HP at 10am to 12pm, in aid of the charities the Mayor's charities, Tŷ Hapus and MND (Motor Neurone Disease) Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan.

For more information, contact 01446 704921, or e-mail [juliehurd@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:juliehurd@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk).

## Still viewing in black and white!

NINE families in Barry and 12 in Bridgend are among 9,000 people in the UK still watching black and white TV, nearly 50 years after former BBC Two controller David Attenborough introduced colour TV nationally.

Catherine Griffith-Williams, spokesperson for TV Licensing Wales, said: "It's astounding that nearly 10 households in Barry still watch on a black and white telly, especially now that over half of homes access TV content over the internet, on smart TVs."

"However, whether you have the latest 4K TV, or a black and white set from the 1970s, if you are watching or recording live television, you do need a TV licence," she warned.

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# THE GLAMORGAN HUNT MEETS UP IN COWBRIDGE – AND HEADS OUT WEST

THE Glamorgan Hunt met up on New Year's Day in Cowbridge for the second of its festive events – the first was on Boxing Day.

Traditionally on Boxing Day the hunt heads to the east of the town; while on New Year's Day it heads west.

As you can see, Glyn Evans was on hand to capture riders, horses and hounds as they cantered off for the day.

## PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE  
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**Articles for sale**

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**Three Wheeler Walker**

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## Family Notices

### OLNEY

#### David Owen

Peacefully at home, after a long illness. David, cherished husband of Tess, loving father of Andrew, Peter, Gareth and Anne, respected and loved father-in-law, grandfather and great grandfather.

To be received into St Helens Roman Catholic Church at 6pm on Tuesday, January 12. Requiem Mass at 12.30pm on Wednesday, January 13, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium.

No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Marie Curie Hospice Penarth and Llandough Haematology R&D Fund 5903. RIP. For all enquiries please contact A.G. Adams & Son.

### STEPHENS

#### Henry William Knighton

Died on 22nd December at his home in Dinas Powys. Husband of the late Liz, father of Emma & John & grandfather of his children.

Funeral service to be held at Cardiff and Glamorgan Memorial Park Crematorium, Port Road, Barry, CF62 9PX on Friday, 15th January 2016 at 11am. No flowers or black ties please. Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to Ty Hafan Hospice.

All enquiries to Green Willow Funerals, 21a Station Road, Dinas Powys, CF64 4DE. Tel (029) 2051 4627

### JONES

#### Dilys Irene May

Peacefully in her sleep at the Iorwerth Jones Care Home, Cardiff on December 23rd. Dilys, formerly of St Andrews Road, Barry. Dearly beloved wife of the late Norman, much loved mum of Kevin and Christopher, mother-in-law of Joanne and Ann. Adored nan of Stacey, Natasha, Curtis, Nadine and Neil, and great-nan of Kayden, Marshal, Maximus and Tristan.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynwydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until her funeral service and committal at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Thursday, January 14th at 1pm. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

### PIMM

#### David

Peacefully at home on December 21. Dave, well known window cleaner within Barry. Much loved husband to Julie, a loving dad, bumpy, and great bumpy who will be greatly missed. Also a special brother and uncle.

David is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry, until his service at their Windsor Road Chapel (opposite Mount Sorrel Hotel) on Wednesday, January 13 at 11am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Immediate family floral tributes only, donations if desired may be made at the service to support Ty Hafan Childrens Hospice in Wales.

Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

### THOMAS

#### Peter Theophilus

Suddenly on December 17 at UHW, Cardiff, Peter of Peterston-s-Ely, beloved husband of Maryrose, a dearly loved father of Daniel and Anna, father-in-law of Vanessa, much loved Grancha of Ollie, Leila, Millie and Jacob.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonnmon, Funeral Monday January 11, service and cremation 12 noon at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Velindre Hospital c/o J. James, 11 Fonnmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

### ORCHARD

#### Craig Anthony (Orch)

Suddenly on December 25, Craig of Llantwit Major. Beloved son of Peter and Janet, dearly loved brother of Peter and Rhian and a much loved uncle of Dylan, Ewan, Carys, Tegan and Iestyn. He will be sadly missed by his family and many friends.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the service on Monday, January 11 in St. Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major at 1.45pm, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 3.15pm.

### CUMMINS

#### Ann Kathleen "Annie"

Peacefully on Christmas Eve at Llandough Hospital, surrounded by her loving family - Ann, dearly loved wife to Alan and an adored mum to Justine and Nathan. Cherished grandmother of Clementine, Scarlett, Bebe, Millie, Coco and Eloise. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and cherished her.

Ann is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at St Helens RC Church, Barry on Tuesday, January 12 at 10.45am, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry.

Family floral tributes only. Donations, if desired may be made at the service or via Ann's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk to support the work of local charity TY HAPUS, which was inspired by Annie. Please wear something bright and beautiful to reflect Annie's spirit. Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis, 01446 407962.

### CHISLETT

#### Kathleen Mary (née Carthy)

Peacefully in her sleep on December 21 at College Fields Nursing Home at the age of 101. Kathleen, devoted wife to the late James, much loved mum of Kathleen, Peter, Michael, Frances and their families. She will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Kathleen is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her Requiem Mass at Merthyr Dyfan Church, Merthyr Dyfan Lane, Barry on Monday, January 11 at 2.30pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Immediate family flowers only, donations if desired may be made via the funeral director in aid of SENSE or SCOPE in memory of Kathleen.

Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis, 01446 407962.

### JENKINS

#### John Stuart

(aged 91 of Cowbridge)

Retired Midland Bank Manager, widow of Mary, father of Sarah and Jo. Partner of Mair and brother of the late Norman. Also, sadly missed by Mair's three daughters.

Funeral service Thursday, January 14th at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge at 2pm, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium. Family flowers only.

### BELLION

#### Paul

Peacefully on December 17 at the University Hospital Of Wales - Paul, well known for his time employed at BP Chemicals, Barry. Devoted husband to Anne and much loved dad of Rachel, Samantha and Richard. Cherished grandpa of Natalie, Samuel, Ethan, Olivia and Cory. He will be greatly missed by all his family and many friends.

Paul is being cared for by Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at St Cadocs, Old Village Church, Cadroxton on Monday 18th January at 1.45pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Family flowers only, donations may be made at the service to support Marie Curie Care in memory of Paul.

### ROGERS

#### Derek Miller "Rod"

Peacefully on December 26 at Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth - Rod, formerly of Nant-y-Moel, Bridgend. Devoted husband to June, loving dad to Ticia, Richard, Robert, Tina, Jane and David, cherished grandpa to all his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Rod will be dearly missed by all his family and many friends.

Resting at Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at their Windsor Road Chapel (Opposite the Mount Sorrel Hotel) on Tuesday, January 12 at 1.45pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium.

Family flowers only, donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth in memory of Rod.

Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

### McCARTHY

#### Pamela Joyce (née Butler)

Unexpectedly on December 26, Pam of Blaenavon and formerly of Llantwit Major, aged 62. Beloved daughter of the late Ken and Joyce, wife of Tony, sister of Chris and Julie and aunt to Sam and Jamie. Pam will be sadly missed by all her friends and family.

Funeral service in St Peters Church, Blaenavon on January 15 at 1.45pm, followed by service at Cwmbran Crematorium at 3pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Macmillan.

### EVANS

#### Philip (Ev's)

Formerly of Barry Road & Llantwit Major

Peacefully on December 27th, after a short illness, father, brother and uncle. Will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday, January 15th at 1.15pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu may be sent to Marie Curie, Holme Tower, Bridgeman Road, Penarth.

## Acknowledgements

### BOARD

#### John Allan

Mary and family of the late John Board of Penmark wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their support and kindness during their loss. We would also like to thank the staff at Llandough Hospital for their care and compassion shown to John during his illness.

Special thanks go to Rev Malcolm Davies for the heartwarming service and to W James & Sons for their professional help with the funeral arrangements.

### TAYLOR

#### Gerald

Viv and the family would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes and sympathy following Gerald's passing. They would also like to thank all who attended the funeral service, with special thanks to the Reverend Huw Butler for his comforting service.

#### In loving memory of

### DAVID JENKINS

#### Ystradowen

Gwyneth and family would like to express their sincere gratitude for the many cards, messages of comfort and charity donations they have received. Many thanks to all involved at this extremely difficult time. We were overwhelmed to see so many friends and family at the service.

Thank you all for your support.

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## Public Notice

#### MOIRA ANN RUTH HEWITT (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925, notice is hereby given that any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 6 Maes Lindys, Rhoose, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3LN who died on 21/07/2015 are required to send written particulars to the undersigned on or before 15/3/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Chorus Law Ltd, Heron House, Timothy's Bridge Road, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 9BX

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## Birthdays

### DEN PARSONS

wishing you a very **Happy Birthday** for Monday 4th January

Thank you for everything you do for your girls and Michigan!

With all our love & appreciation.

You know who we are!! Xx

Happy Birthday **Philip Irwin** on the 8th January

Best wishes from all your friends at the GEM

## Anniversary

Happy 30th Anniversary

**JAN & ROGER IRVING**

ON JANUARY 11TH

...wishing you many more, love from all your friends at The GEM xxx

## Public Notice

#### PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern I Neil Tipples do hereby give notice that I have applied to the licensing authority (Vale of Glamorgan Council) for the grant of a premises licence at 87 Court Road, Barry, CF63 1ET known as T & N stores.

The application is for the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises Monday - Saturday 07.00 - 21.00 Sunday 09.00 - 21.00.

Any persons wishing to make representations to this application may do so in writing to the Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU, not later than 28 days after the date of this notice. Representations received after this date will not be considered.

A copy of the application can be viewed at the Civic Offices during normal office hours. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5000. Date 21 December 2015.

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...

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www.llantwit-today.co.uk/  
www.bridgend-today.co.uk/  
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

TO ADVERTISE YOUR SITUATIONS VACANT, FAMILY NOTICES, BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES etc. Call Sue on 01446 774484 email: gemesales@tindlenews.co.uk



# Primary pupils spread festive cheer around town



Scenes from the Golau Caredig visit – the children with their headteacher, Mrs Newman.



## Bridge club's results

**RESULTS** for the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club for January 4 were : 1st John Evans & Steve Burgoyne 67.71%; 2nd Debbie & Simon Richards 64.79%; 3rd Irene Thomas & Graham Jones 58.96%.

**SPREADING festive cheer within the local community was the order of the day for Gladstone primary pupils during the last week of term before the Christmas break.**

At the beginning of the week, Gladstone celebrated the start of its new partnership with Golau Caredig, as reported in last week's GEM, with the nursery children performing their Christmas concert and members of the school choir singing a selection of songs to the delighted residents.

The next day, the infant and junior choirs had a wonderful time at Asda, singing Christmas carols and songs to entertain both the shoppers in the store and their proud parents.

Later in the week, the children again sang and danced at the YMCA Hub for Tysor O Le, a day service for adults with learning and physical disabilities.

Headteacher Caroline Newman commented: "At Gladstone, we are very proud of our strong community links. It is wonderful to share the talent of our children with the people of Barry, especially at this special time of year."

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## AM joins swimmers for a New Year dip in briny for Mencap



**INTREPID swimmers** Fi Rodgers and Emma Sullivan were joined for the Barry Island New Year's Day Swim to raise money for Mencap by the Vale AM, Jane Hutt.

She has backed the charity for many years and there was a special message this year to support the campaign and advocacy project which includes Barry's Sian Rodgers as a key team member.

The AM reported: "It was quite a challenge, but the strength of friendship and support on the beach as we charged into the waves three times was fantastic. It was great to take the plunge to support Mencap Cymru!"

## Merchant ends year on high

**MERCHANT** Of Milan, a seven-year-old bay gelding, ended 2015 on a high note for Kenfig Hill trainer John Flint when landing the handicap steeplechase at Warwick on New Year's Eve.

Merchant Of Milan, a 11-2 chance, formerly trained by Brendon Powell, was racing for the first time for Flint and was ridden by Tom O'Brien. But it was a close finish as the always prominent Merchant Of Milan won by just a short head from I Am Colin.

BRIAN LEE

## Sports stars head to Vale

**FORMER WBO middleweight and WBC super middleweight champion of the world Nigel Benn** will be heading to the Vale Sports Arena in 2016 as a host of top stars are set to entertain guests in various sports dinners.

Guests will enjoy a three course meal, Q and A, speeches, auctions and much more in fun and enjoyable action packed evenings with

John Barnes, Craig Bellamy and Andrew Cole, before Benn visits on June 18.

Paul Gascoigne will speak to guests in October about his career with Newcastle FC, Tottenham FC playing in Italy with Lazio and of course that memorable World Cup in 1990 in Italy in his first sports dinner in Wales.

For more information please email [petegriff10@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:petegriff10@hotmail.co.uk) or visit [www.pg10coaching.co.uk](http://www.pg10coaching.co.uk).

PG

## WILF'S A WALKING FOOTBALL DREAM!

**WALKING Football** began in 2011 and has proved hugely popular in helping both men and women extend their playing years, return to the game, or even make a belated start.

It's all about letting the ball do the work and walking fast when you need to - running will cost you a free-kick!

New regular venues for walking football sprang up at the rate of one a day in 2015 and although Wales was slow to take it up, there are now 14 places to play. Most sessions are for the over 50s but age-restrictions do vary and the oldest player in the UK is 83!

Wilf Frith (53) is a Llantwit Major resident and has been attending the Cardiff City

Foundation group on Thursday afternoons but is also welcoming interest for starting up a weekly group locally.

He said: "It's great exercise, very friendly and social but competitive rather than rough, just encouraging of everyone to improve week by week."

"The players are all so delighted to be able to play football again and can't get enough of it. I'd love to get a group started in Llantwit Major, it only need be four-aside or so to start with."

If you're aged 45 or over and are interested in playing, contact [wilf@shekicks.net](mailto:wilf@shekicks.net) or call him on 01446 792738. For general information and contacts, visit [www.walkingfootballunit.co.uk](http://www.walkingfootballunit.co.uk).

WF

## Barry RFC lottery starts this weekend!

**SADLY, all games involving Barry RFC teams were cancelled last weekend due to the weather.**

This weekend Barry are due to meet Dowlais, who are challenging near the top of the league, and won the home fixture earlier in the season with Barry's performance that day being one to forget, although things have changed dramatically since then.

Weather-permitting, the game will kick off at 2.30pm.

Following the game,

AJ

### Zumba exercise

**LOOKING to get into shape for the new year? Would you like to feel fitter?**

KPC Youth and Community (off Pyle Inn Way, Pyle, Bridgend CF33 6AB) are running a new exercise/Zumba class on Tuesday mornings from 9am - 10am. No fee, but a voluntary contribution is appreciated: limited creche spaces at SPLICE, which need to be pre-booked before the session with Alison on 01656 749219.

To book a place in the class, phone 01656 749219/745399.

Go to **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...

There's lots more online...



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# Good as New Car Body Repairs

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Tristan Greedy would like to inform all of his customers that due to business expansion they have moved from the Heritage Business Park, Wick Rd, Llantwit Major to their new premises (next door to the Post Office sorting office), Llandow, Vale Business Park - and it's business as normal.

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In black, 33,000 miles, very nice example  
**£9,495**



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In silver, 20,000 miles, 4x4, full leather  
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In Fuchsia red, 39,000 miles, low insurance  
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In yellow, 3,000 miles with a/c alloys etc  
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In metallic purple, 16,000 miles, low insurance  
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- 62 CITROEN DS3 1.6 Style Plus 3-Dr In white with black roof, 33,000 miles, 1 owner .....**£7,995**
- 62 FIAT Diablo 1.6 Multi Jet Diesel Eleganza In met grey, 41,000 miles, 1 owner example .....**£7,995**
- 61 SKODA Fabia 1.6 Diesel Scout Crios Estate In met grey, 23,000 miles.....**£7,995**
- 64 MG3 3 Style 1.5 VTI 5-Dr In yellow, 3,000 miles with a/c alloys etc .....**£7,495**
- 62 SUZUKI Swift 1.2 SZ4 5-Dr In black, 16,000 miles, 1 owner, high spec.....**£7,495**
- 12 SKODA Roomster 1.6 TDI SE Plus In black, 39,000 miles, 1 owner .....**£7,495**
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- 60 SKODA Fabia 1.6 Diesel SE 5-Dr In silver, 56,000 miles, low running costs.....**£5,695**
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- 07 FORD Fusion 1.6 Automatic Zetec In glacier blue, 33,000 miles with a/c .....**£3,995**
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## Sharp-shooting Farmers land the GWC trophy

ON Tuesday December 15, the darts evening before the Christmas and New Year break, the aim was that all teams would gather at the Edmondson Arms to play in the GWC.

Unfortunately Llanharri and the Farmers Arms were not able to field full teams and the Highwayman Inn had transport problems, but still it was a good night of knock-out darts.

The GWC is a team game, each team playing six players in each leg. In the semi-finals the Edmondson A beat the Edmondson C 2-0 while the Farmers B (H&H) narrowly defeated the Six Bells Inn 2-1.

This year's champions are the Farmers B (H&H) who defeated the Edmondson A 3-0 in the final, a scoreline that did not fully reflect how close all the legs were.

Current league standings, at the half-way point in the season, are:

Edmondson B (50 points), Llanharri (47), Highwayman Inn (45), Edmondson A (40), Edmondson C (36), Six Bells Inn (34), Farmers Arms (33), Farmers B (H&H) (27) and Old Post Ladies (12).

The first darts matches of 2016 will be played on Tuesday January 12, when a full programme of league matches will be played.

Llanharri hosts the Six Bells Inn, the Farmers B (H&H) hosts the Farmers Arms, the Highwayman Inn hosts the Edmondson C and the Old Post Ladies hosts the Edmondson A. The Edmondson B do not have a game.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at [cowbridgedarts@gmail.com](mailto:cowbridgedarts@gmail.com), up-to-date information can be found on the website: [www.darts.apsn.co.uk](http://www.darts.apsn.co.uk).

PJT

## Boule team celebrates end of season



Llanmaes boule players with mascot, Meg.

THE Llanmaes Boule team had an enjoyable season despite the indifferent weather.

They were able to play most Friday evenings on their pitch in the grounds of the St Cattwg's Village Hall.

Friendly matches were played with Vale village teams including those from Llancafarn and Michaelson le Pit and others are planned for 2016.

A few days before Christmas, Coun Jackie Simpson presented Jeff Smith of Llanmaes with a trophy for the individual champion for 2015.

The team champions were from Keyline, Llandow, who were captained by Lee Holloway and Ben Drew. They were supported by team members Sean Clement, Kevin Beaumont, John Phipps, Gary Rzepka, Sion Phipps and Kierran Beresford.

Llanmaes captain, Coun Tim Fowler, thanked all who had played in 2015 with special thanks to the Keyline team led by Martin Watts Jones for their technical and practical support in the maintenance of the boules pitch; he looked forward to the 2016 season.

JR



Jeff Smith with Coun Jackie Simpson.

## Cowbridge RFC victims to weather

Unfortunately, another match for Cowbridge first XV was lost to the weather on Saturday as the home fixture with Tylorstown was called off due to a waterlogged pitch.

We still do not know who we will play on January 16 in the fourth round of the Swalec Bowl. Burry Port and Cardigan have been unable to fulfil the fixture due to the weather, but they have serious problems in that area with flooding so they have more pressing problems.

The youth however were able to play at Cardiff Arms Park on the 4G surface as a curtain raiser before the Cardiff v Llanelli match.

Their opponents were St Peters and it was a fine advert for youth rugby. St Peters started the better and pressed, but Cowbridge had a strong

defence and chances of their own. St Peter did cross for a converted try bringing a half-time score of 7-0.

The second half was really owned by Cowbridge with tries for prop Craig Boxall, making a big impact off the bench after his return from injury, and impressive flanker James Holder in his first season in the youth.

St Peters added a penalty to bring the scores level and the teams went at it to the final whistle, 10-10 the final score.

The Cowbridge coaches were a little disappointed that some chances had not been finished off. It would be fair to say the game did not suffer in comparison with the main game with some great skills on display by both teams.

This Saturday, the first XV are away at Caerau Ely; the youth take on Mountain Ash at home, kick offs at 2.30pm.

RV/RK

## Merlin works his magic at chess event

THE Welsh Junior Rapidplay event was held in December at Merthyr Tydfil.

Merlin Davies was the only Barry Chess Club member to take part in this event where he played in the under-12 section and finished equal third.

This was a very creditable result for Merlin who has seen his rapidplay rating increase year on year. He

currently has a rating of 1259, an increase of 90 points during 2015.

In January 2014 his rating was under 1000 so this indicates a regular increase in his ability. Well done Merlin, keep it up.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive

chess or just the occasional friendly games. New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at <http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com>.

PJ

## Ath rearrange away fixtures

SUBJECT to final WRU confirmation, Bridgend Athletic team manager Paul Hearne has rearranged the following away postponed Championship fixtures:

Llanharan - Friday, February 12, kick off 7.15pm; Narberth - Saturday, March 12, kick off 1.30pm (TBC), prior to England v Wales game; Glynneath - Saturday, April 30, kick off 2.30pm

The Athletic have a bye in this Saturday's Swalec Cup fixtures and return to Championship League action on Saturday, January 16, with an away fixture at Beddau, before playing promotion contenders RGC1404 at the Bridgend Ford Brewery Field on Saturday, January 23.

AB

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